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1 November 1984

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BARBADOS BANK HEAD'S 5-POINT PROGRAM FOR CARIBBEAN

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 26 Sep 84 p 10

[Text]

A FIVE-POINT plan of action to fortify the Caribbean to meet the challenges of the next decade with a hope of success, has been revealed by Barbados Central Bank Governor, Dr. Courtney Blackman.

Titled **The Five Caribbean Modernisations**, the plan is aimed at the political process, the private and public sectors, the trade union movement, and the University of the West Indies (UWI). It was outlined by Dr. Blackman at a just-concluded Caribbean Insurance Conference in Jamaica.

He said he was recommending the five modernisations following the precedent of the People's Republic of China which some years ago, enunciated the four modernisations.

THE POLITICAL PROCESS

Dr. Blackman said that in this present Information Age the first essential was for our nations to get their politics right. The increased complexity of such "soft ware" as information systems, telecommunications, health care systems and computerised installations, made societies much more vulnerable to dissident activity.

However, he said, in the Information Age there could be no such thing as a legitimate military or personal dictatorship because history was on the side of democracies as never before.

Dr. Blackman continued: "We must decide now to contain the rising trend toward tribalism in Caribbean politics. Is it too difficult for us to understand and to teach our electorates that a political opponent in a two-party or multi-party system is not an enemy but an ally?"

"Unless we have political opponents we can only have a one-party state, with the disastrous effects upon our personal freedoms which such a system brings."

Dr. Blackman also urged that the Caribbean begin now to put the pieces of CARICOM back together with a good starting place being the resuscitation of the Multilateral Facility.

He argued that the weakness in one CARICOM state dragged the others down and "we must either hang together or we will all hang apart".

THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Dr. Blackman recommended the action now to decentralise the decision-making process of government throughout the Caribbean since management was, essentially, the art of locating knowledge and power in the same place.

He said: "Ministers of Government are in the best position to know about national issue and they alone can make national decisions. Civil servants and technicians should be left to carry out the administrative and technical duties for which there are specifically trained, subject only to the constraints of overall policy."

Dr. Blackman felt that too many inconsequential decisions in the Caribbean were taken at the Cabinet level, leaving government ministers insufficient time to decide expeditiously on matters of national importance.

According to him, however, the most urgent need is to reform the management of statutory corporations by deciding now which are critical to national development and those where the luxury of political patronage can be indulged.

Dr. Blackman recommended the private sector taking steps now to gear itself for competition in the markets of the world. To this end they must develop the capacity for thinking and learning within their organisations because sheer experience will not do us much good in the Information Age.

He said: "In the area of management the new emphasis must be on the marketing function — that is, we must be prepared to go into the markets of the world to discover what products are needed and from what sources we can get quality raw materials at the best prices.

"Clearly we cannot expect to compete in mass-produced goods. We must aim to carve out special niches in the market place and go for quality, style, reliability, prompt delivery and excellence after sales service."

Finally, he said this sector must start to learn how to develop (and manage) knowledge by workers which will involve a move toward participative management.

TRADE UNIONS

Dr. Blackman recommended that trade unions decide now to shoulder a major responsibility for economic development in an

increasingly complex economy and a fiercely competitive international environment.

"In the age of the computer there is little room for blind confrontational industrial relations. The precision required in the new high-tech and information service industries requires a total commitment to quality," he said.

"The trade union leadership must come to think of themselves not so much as the opponents of management as its conscience. They must begin their negotiations not with demands but with questions. These are necessary policies for maintaining the viability of the enterprise and for protecting the jobs of workers in the future."

He also urged trade unions to establish well-staffed economic research bureaux and to recruit economists who are not afraid to tell them that an excessive rate of wage increase will inevitably lead to inflation, unemployment and the collapse of the balance of payments.

Dr. Blackman recommended that the UWI, as the major centre of knowledge-production take steps immediately to improve its efficiency in this area.

He also stressed that the University, in the Information Age, needs resources far beyond the budgets of poor Caribbean countries; and private industry must be prepared to make more significant financial contributions to this pivotal institution.

BARBADOS UNION SUPPORTS ICFTU STATEMENTS, POSITIONS

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 23 Sep 84 p 2

[Paid advertisement by Frank Walcott, general secretary of the Barbados Workers Union: "The Union Speaks: New Approaches to the Economic Crisis in the Caribbean and Latin America"]

[Text]

The trade union movement in Latin America and the Caribbean met with the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) in Mexico City from August 20 to 22 to study the serious world economic crisis and the role the International Monetary Fund (IMF) plays in this crisis. The ICFTU-ORIT Conference on New Approaches to the Economic Crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean gave serious and detailed consideration to all aspects of the crisis which has affected the lives of millions throughout this Hemisphere and in the Caribbean where the problem has been acute. We are aware that these problems will not be solved by turning our backs on them; we therefore have to face them in a united effort.

Trade unions in the Caribbean have a special role to play in this matter and they will have to look deeper with a view to searching for the answers to deal with the pressing problems that confront our communities.

The Conference was important from every angle and the conclusions are of special importance to all of us in this region. We consider it ap-

propriate that we should draw to the attention of our members and readers some of the conclusions of this important meeting.

After examining the background to the economic problems of the area, the Conference made this statement on International Financial Institutions:

"At the international level the forthcoming meetings of the IMF and the World Bank should adopt the following measures:

a) continuous coordinating by the main industrial countries or monetary policies with a view to reducing and stabilizing real interest rates and stabilizing exchange rates;

b) changed IMF loan conditions to promote balance-of-payments adjustments through growth oriented policies and investment and employment promotion;

c) new arrangements for IMF loans so as to provide more support over longer periods to countries in balance-of-payments, difficulties, which do not inhibit development; the IMF should also encourage governments to consult on their adjustment

policies with the trade union movement:

d) increased access to IMF resources for developing countries by, amongst other things, increased quotas and a new issue of Special Drawing Rights;

e) a new system for the multilateral restructuring of developing countries high-cost short-term commercial loans so as to establish a pattern of debt service payments fitted to the countries ability to pay; this should include generous periods of grace, where necessary;

f) new rules for cooperation between the IMF and central banks authorities to prevent capital flight;

g) an increase in the resources of the World Bank, including the International Development Association, and the Inter-American Development Bank;

h) the IMF and other agencies should take the view of the ILO into account in their policies, in line with the 1984 International Labour Conference resolution on employment policy.

In addition the Conference calls upon the IMF to:

a) carry out studies on the social context of IMF policies taking into account trade union views and policies on national, regional and international economic problems;

b) open a dialogue, within the framework of IMF procedures, between IMF officials and trade union representatives at national, regional and international levels."

We consider these conclusions to be of particular interest to us in the Caribbean because of the serious economic position that has overtaken us. We are aware that the crisis will not go away by political blandishments, but by serious and

thoughtful approaches.

The Conference gave serious consideration to the introduction of dialogue between the partners in the society and to this end made this statement on Regional Policy:

"At the regional level, governments should increase the exchange of information and formulation of policies on areas of mutual interest. In particular, they should seek to formulate common negotiating objectives on the terms of loan rescheduling and IMF programmes. They should also step up their activities within institutions such as the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Labour Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization. Joint infrastructure projects for transport and energy should be undertaken and a major effort made to reduce intra-regional trade barriers".

On the basis of national policies, the issues were again made clear for governments and the trade unions to act upon. The conclusions were:

"At the national level, governments must modify their policies to reflect the urgency of the social crisis affecting the region as well as the external financial problems. Labour intensive infrastructure projects should be maintained and increased. Integrated rural development, including land reform programmes, should be intensified on the basis of close cooperation with the organizations of rural workers and farmers. Such programmes should improve agriculture productivity, employment, wages and the quality of rural life. Skill training programmes should be stepped up. Governments

should also reduce to a minimum the levels of military expenditure, especially on unnecessary imports of expensive hardware. Similarly, many governments should undertake a reform of the tax system so as to ensure that those most able to bear the burden contribute fully to financing government expenditures.

Every effort must be made to protect the wages and jobs of the workers. Governments should not introduce unilateral cut-backs. Economic programmes should be subject to regular joint review with provisions for real wage increases in line with the control of inflation".

The special call made for trade union action is one which we all endorse and we hope that governments in this area will be at one with this statement and will make sure that it is implemented everywhere:

"The economic crisis poses new challenges to the free and democratic trade union movement. In order to protect and promote the

interests of union members and working people generally, the trade union movement must bring about a major change in national, regional and international economic policies. This will entail developing concrete proposals on the main issues of concern and persuading governments that they must be included in their programmes.

A prerequisite for the involvement of trade unions in the search for new approaches to development is the full recognition of freedom of association, since in a number of countries of the region this right has yet to be established. We point out that economic justice cannot be attained without democratic freedom. The effective involvement of unions in the determination of economic policy-making will entail a major advance in the role in society. In all countries, unions must ensure that the independent voice of the working people is heard, with a clear, constructive and convincing message".

BRIEFS

DROP IN CDB INTEREST--The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has reduced its interest rates on loans from 11.25 per cent to 11 per cent. This reduction which will be for the six months beginning October 1 this year, was decided on at the 90th meeting of the bank's Board of Directors at the CDB headquarters, and under the chairmanship of the bank's president, Mr. William Demas. In April this year the CDB had introduced a system of variable interest rates. Loans must be approved between last April and March 31, 1985. At the meeting the Board gave the greenlight for the President to sign a Cooperative Agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany for technical assistance in implementing phase two of a regional biogas extension programme. Under this new phase, experts from the German Appropriate Technology Exchange (GATE) will spend a further 36 man-months assisting the bank in establishing investment programmes in Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The programme will also demonstrate the technology in several other of the CDB's borrowing member countries where significant opportunities for use of biodegesters were identified during phase one. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 26 Sep 84 p 1]

IDB HELP FOR UTILITIES--KINGSTON, Jamaica, Tuesday (CANA)--The inter-American Development Bank has approved a technical cooperation grant of US\$1.4 million for a training and advisor programme on the design of tariffs for public services, the IDB office here announced. The project is aimed at helping electricity, water and sewerage utilities in IDB member countries in the Caribbean and Latin America to carry out practical research to determine their tariff structures while bearing in mind the social and financial limitations of each agency. The programme will consist of a seminar, up to 12 consultancies, and four sub-regional courses. The bank's resources will be used to hire experts and to finance transportation for seminar and course participants. The seminar will be held at IDB headquarters, with the participation of executives of the agencies that set tariffs for public utilities and administrators of electricity and water utilities in Latin America. The 12 consultancies will be for between two or nine months, and will be offered to agencies in the region seeking assistance in undertaking work in the subject of marginal costs. These consultancies will be carried out through the contracting of individual consultants and will help to design tariff structures and make recommendations for their eventual implementation. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 26 Sep 84 p 3]

CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH ARGENTINA--Mexico City, 6 Oct (NOTIMEX)--Mexico's Foreign Secretariat has reported that Mexico and Argentina have signed an education and cultural agreement for 1984-87. The plan was signed at the end of the third joint meeting between the two nations' cultural committees. The program, the secretariat added, stems from the two countries political orientation toward substantially increasing bilateral contacts and activities in these fields, and starting in 1985 a cycle of annual meetings by scientists will begin. The third joint cultural meeting between Mexico and Argentina was closed by Under Secretary for Planning and Cultural Affairs from the Mexican Foreign Secretariat Ricardo Valero and Argentina's Minister of Education Bernardo Solaz. [Text] Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1610 GMT 6 Oct 84 FL]

CSO: 3248/31

BIRD NOTES NEED FOR STRONG SECURITY, BETTER EQUIPMENT

St Johns NATION'S VOICE in English 19 Sep 84 p 5

[Text] Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister, told his fellow countrymen it is wrong to think that the type of crimes taking place in various parts of the world cannot happen in Antigua, citing that Nations' Security Forces must be fully equipped to deal with any situation.

Mr. Bird, made his remark to coincide with the just concluded 1984 police week activities. He noted that terrorism, drug abuse, rape, armed robbery and murder are giving prominence in newspapers all over the world and he warned that only with effective policing will citizens and visitors be able to walk the streets unmolested and without fear.

Prime Minister Bird, declared further that people who are in position of trust must ensure that the men and women in the police force are equipped mentally, physically and otherwise in order to cope effectively with any terrifying situation, which may occur at any time.

Speaking in celebration with the Police Week theme "One Mission - One Destiny", he said it has a message for everyone, who sees the police duty as one of prevention rather than cure.

He said too that one's mission is to improve the quality of life for all citizens, while the Destiny is to make the nation an economically viable society living at peace with itself and with other nations. He re-stated his government's pledged support for the controversial regional security force and also to improve the efficiency of the Nation's Police Force through continuous training programmes.

CSO: 3298/032

ATLU PRESSES GOVERNMENT FOR BETTER DEAL FOR WORKERS

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 26 Sep 84 p 7

[Text]

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua — The Antigua Trades and Labour Union, is pressing the government to introduce legislation to advance the social and economic condition of workers here.

At the opening of the union's 45th annual conference here, president, Mr. William Robinson, urged the Vere Bird administration to immediately enact measures to curtail practices of injustice against workers especially those in the sister island of Barbuda.

Mr. Robinson submitted arguments supporting workers' demands for severance pay and a union request to make it compulsory for employers to sit around the conciliation table.

"We regard such a requirement binding on all the parties to a trade dispute, the trade union inclusive, as having a potent effect in ensuring that trade disputes can be conciliated and settlements achieved without protracted industrial conflict," Mr. Robinson said.

The trade union president also brought to government's notice, the fact that "the vexed question of severance pay" or termination benefits for workers who voluntarily terminate their jobs after serving an employer for several years, may well lead to discon-

tent among union members and the working class.

He said: "As long as it remains unrectified, a large section of our members and of the working peoples of this country will have cause to be discontented."

Mr. Robinson added: "The Antigua Trades and Labour Union has long viewed this as unacceptable and trust that it will not be too long before we see developments leading to the passing of the appropriate legislation."

In response, veteran Antigua Labour Party leader and local trade union pioneer, Mr. Vere Bird, re-affirmed his government's support for the union which he regarded as "the builder of the new Antigua and the champion of freedom for the country and its people."

"We have an obligation," he said, adding "There will be responsibilities upon the shoulders of the trade union leaders and the government that we will take heed of the conditions in Antigua and Barbuda and make sure that we act responsibly, so that just as we are fighting the World Bank and the IMF (International Monetary Fund), you will do your part because Antigua belongs to all of us."

BRIEFS

OIL DEAL WITH NIGERIA--ST. JOHNS, Antigua, Monday, (CANA)--Officials of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) and the Antigua-based West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) are to settle details soon on an oil supply contract which will lead to a resumption of operations at the WIOC refinery here. The announcement was made by Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird, who last month headed a team of Government officials to Lagos. The visit was aimed at strengthening African-Caribbean relations and to secure a supply of Nigerian oil for the local refinery. The WIOC refinery was closed last year because of the high cost factor involved in the purchase of crude for its operations. Bird said the Antigua and Barbuda Government had opened discussions with its WIOC private sector partner in Switzerland on the possibility of rehabilitating and expanding the refinery. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 18 Sep 84 p 3]

FRG AID--The Ministry of Agriculture Lands and Fisheries has announced that Antigua & Barbuda continues to receive assistance from friendly countries to alleviate the effect of the prolonged and severe drought now affecting the country. Livestock production has been badly affected. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Mr. Ernest Benjamin said that the Federal Republic of Germany has provided the Government of Antigua & Barbuda with US\$3,500.00 to assist the livestock sector through the drought period. The money which will be used to purchase commercial hay will be distributed to the livestock farmers around the country shortly. The Federal Republic of Germany is providing the money to the Antigua & Barbuda Agricultural Ministry under its MICRO project to the underdeveloped countries. Both countries established diplomatic relationships following Antigua & Barbuda's attainment of political independence. A source from the Ministry of Agriculture told Nation's Voice that according to scant statistics some 300 cows and some 200 small stock have already died because of the dry spell. [Text] [St Johns NATION'S VOICE in English 28 Aug 84 p 4]

WATER DRILLS FROM VENEZUELA--In an effort to assist Antigua in improving its water resources, Venezuela has donated a Well Drilling Rig. The Venezuela Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean, Dr. Francois Moanach, arrived here on Thursday September 13th, 1984. A dinner was held at the Flamingo Hotel in his honour, where Dr. Moanach made the presentation. Dr. Moanach spent four days on the island during which time he met, His Excellency the Governor General, Sir Wilfred Jacobs; the Rt. Hon. Vere C. Bird Sr., Prime Minister, The Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Lester Bird and Senior Officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This water drill, part of Venezuela's technical assistance programme to Antigua and Barbuda has the capability to drill up to 100ft in depth. [Text] [St Johns NATION'S VOICE in English 19 Sep 84 p 5]

GRIFFITH DISCUSSES OIL PROGRAM, ENERGY PLAN

Progress in Energy Security

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 15 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] Barbados has reported significant progress with its oil programme, but Energy Minister Senator Clyde Griffith has ruled out a reduction in the price of petroleum products to consumers.

Senator Griffith told a news conference yesterday that significant strides had been made in the Government's goal to energy security. Last year the country recorded its highest production of crude when over 380 000 barrels were recovered.

"This year the trend seems to be keeping up very well, over the last six months or so we have passed the 300 000 barrel production," Senator Griffith told the press.

What this meant, he explained, was that the country can look forward to surpassing the projections made for this year, and for next year in the Government's Five-year Development Plan.

"What does this imply for the country--it implies we can feel comfortable, we have made significant inroads in our oil import bill. To many people this may not seem like much, especially in view of the fact that it doesn't indicate a drop in the price of product in Barbados or the price of electricity," Senator Griffith said.

Senator Griffith said that small oil importing countries had no influence over the world price of oil and Barbados had a contractual arrangement to import crude oil and crude products from Venezuela, a member country of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

He said too that the oil produced in Barbados was done so at a cost to the Barbados National Oil Company (BNOC) operations which were related to cost of production in the Western world.

"Oil we produce in Barbados is produced at a cost, so there is not much room for reduction of prices because you are increasing your production," the Minister pointed out.

"What the increase of production means therefore is that we must look at the possibilities for security.

We feel very good about the fact that this year we can produce close to 60 per cent of our domestic demands. What does it mean given the fact you have an unsteady situation in the Middle East with Iran and Iraq at war still and all the bombings in the Persian Gulf? It means that if there were shortages tomorrow we can still continue to provide oil supplies to the Barbados economy and we would not be as affected as we were in 1973."

Senator Griffith also touched on an agreement reached between the then Government and the local Mobil Refinery, stating that when petroleum prices started to rise in 1973 the refinery had to be given a surcharge to make a profit.

He said provision for profit making was included in the agreement.

Basic Strategies of Plan

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 16 Sep 84 p 2

[Text]

The three basic strategies that the Government of Barbados has adopted to achieve the goal of saving foreign exchange and reduce our energy dependence are the expansion of domestic oil and natural gas output, the development of alternative energy resources, and energy conservation.

These strategies have been outlined by Energy Minister, Senator Clyde Griffith, in a message today to mark the opening of National Energy Awareness Week.

Following is the text of Senator Griffith's message.

"This coming week has been designated "Second National Energy Awareness Week" by the Ministry of Planning. You will recall that the first such week was held during September last year to mark the official launching of a major long term national energy education programme. Activities and events scheduled for this week will represent the culmination of the efforts which the Energy and Natural Resources Division has been pursuing throughout the year to educate the Barbadian public on energy-related matters.

This education programme, let me remind you, is directed towards the following:

- the creation of an awareness of the nature and course of the world energy situation and an appreciation of its effects on Barbados.

- the dissemination of information on the response, activities and policies of the Government

- the education of the public on the importance of conserving energy and pursuing the development of applicable alternative sources of energy.

"During this week, therefore, there will be supplements in the press on energy matters; the print and broadcast media will carry energy conservation messages and tips; the television programme "Civic File" will deal with energy conservation; a National Seminar on Energy Conservation will be held at the Dover Convention Centre on Wednesday, September

19; an Energy Economy Run organised by the Rally Club and sponsored by Mobil Oil Barbados Limited, the Barbados National Oil Company Limited and the Energy Conservation Unit will take place on September 15, and

(a) bumper stickers with energy conservation messages,

(b) pamphlets on efficient energy use in the transportation and household sectors and

(c) manuals for the hotel, commercial and industrial sectors to encourage them to implement energy conservation opportunities available to them, will be distributed.

"The heartening feature of our efforts to educate the public on energy matters has been the support which has been received from the private sector through the National Energy Advisory Group and its sub-committees. This co-operation of the private sector has further manifested itself with the financial assistance which some organisations have very willingly provided to defray the cost of printing the pamphlets, manuals and bumper stickers that I have mentioned.

"This Government-private sector co-operation will be continued later this month at Tradex where there will be a display of energy conservation products and services as well as seminar for hoteliers to encourage them to pursue energy conservation opportunities available to them as a means of helping them to reduce their operating costs. The Barbados Hotel Association, the Barbados Development Bank and the Energy Conservation Unit are expected to sponsor these activities.

"The three basic strategies that the Government has adopted to achieve that goal are: the expansion of domestic oil and natural gas output; the development of alternative energy resources; and energy conservation.

"These strategies are progressing satisfactorily. Oil production at the Woodbourne field soared to a record height of 380 000 barrels last year (1983). We have commenced work towards the establishment of a pilot plant to determine the full potential of generating electricity from wind resource and transferring the energy into the national grid.

"A study has also been completed on the feasibility of establishing a plant to convert garbage into electrical energy to be fed into the national grid. Considerable progress, as you know, has been made in utilising solar energy for water heating. We are not only concerned about increasing the indigenous supply of energy but also in ensuring that the energy available to us is used in an efficient manner.

"Our energy conservation programme, started in March, 1983, has revealed that there is an overall energy conservation potential in the island of 14 — 17 per cent. Efforts have already started within the several sectors to achieve some of the energy savings that have been identified.

"Great strides have been made in our goal to attain energy security.

"Many Barbadians have been trained; our imports have decreased considerably; our alternative energy projects are getting off the ground; and most importantly, prices have stabilised for the last three years. But because the price of energy in Barbados is susceptible to political demagoguery, let me turn my attention to it.

"I must reiterate at the outset, that oil-importing countries like Barbados have little or no control over the world price of Crude Oil.

"Two major events in the 1970s have brought the price of oil to its present levels — the Arab oil embargo of 1973 and revolution in Iran of 1979. The US\$45 per barrel drop in March 1983 came about only when OPEC countries made that decision.

"Apart from having to buy imported oil at the US\$29 per barrel, the refinery in Barbados through a 1962 agreement, finds itself tied to product prices based on operations outside of Barbados. Additionally, the Barbados National Oil Company, which sells its crude to the refinery at the world price, is subjected to the international costs of production like any other oil company.

"In short, whilst reductions in the price of energy have a popular appeal, sobriety dictates that such action would not be good for the economic health of the total community.

"Whenever possible, however, benefits are passed on to the consumer. When, the price of oil dropped on the world market in 1983, the Government passed the savings on in the form of electricity prices and in the price of kerosene.

"But whilst we may not have total control in our pricing systems, there are other areas over which we can exercise control. Conservation is one such area. And through conservation we can remove inefficiencies in the use of energy, thereby reducing the cost to ourselves. This is the challenge we face.

"The national energy education programme is designed to make you aware so that together we can meet that challenge.

"I urge you therefore to join hands with us as we move forward to our stated objectives of energy security and independence.

"Use energy wisely."

BEACH EROSION STUDY FOCUSES ON WEST COAST, POLLUTION

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 15 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] The findings of a 13-month-long study of this country's west and south coastline which was completed earlier this year have been made public.

The coastal conservation study was carried out at the diagnostic and prefeasibility levels by two Canadian Consulting firms, Proctor and Redfern International Limited, and Hunter and Associates, in association with a local consulting firm, David Lashley and Partners.

It found that the erosion problems were most severe on the west coast, and on the south coast between Hastings and Welches in Christ Church, and that the beaches at Oistins and between Hastings and Carlisle Bay were found to be building-up. The erosion is especially concentrated at the headlands on the west coast.

According to the study the major causes of pollution are threefold: large scale atmospheric changes relating to changes in wave energy and sea level rise; badly sited sea defence structures; and pollution.

Pollution is one of the factors causing the death of the near-shore coral reefs, which provide protective barriers for the beaches and without them the erosion would be very much worse. The pollution results from the discharge of sewage, industrial wastes, garbage and agricultural fertilizers, and pesticides into the sea.

A major recommendation is to stop polluting the marine environment. When the South and West Coast and Greater Bridgetown Sewerage Projects are completed these will remove one of the major sources of pollution.

Another recommendation is the control of many of the industrial sources of pollution originating in the Bridgetown area.

It was discovered that during the rainy season, water from west coast gullies flowed into the sea carrying a large pollution load and the consultants recommended that a series of dams should be built to check these flows. The Barbados Government plans to construct one of these dams to assess its effectiveness in terms of water quality improvement.

The consultants also recommended that a series of offshore break-waters should be built along the west coast to protect the coast and to encourage beach build-up. There are plans afoot by Government to construct one of these breakwaters on a trial basis to assess its effectiveness. Other proposed measures include additions to the groyne system on the south coast.

The study also reveals that Government is planning to start a coastal revegetation scheme using the deep-rooting machineel tree, which besides stabilising beach sand, enhances the aesthetic appearance of the coast and provide shade. In addition, the Coastal Conservation Project Office will continue to monitor coastal changes and provide advice on coastal developments and structures.

CSO: 3298/034

SUGAR INDUSTRY TO GET MORE SUPPORT; 120,000-TON TARGET SET

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 26 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] Barbados' ailing sugar industry is to receive further price support from Government.

This was announced yesterday by Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Richard (Johnny) Cheltenham, as he addressed the Second Annual Conference of the Barbados Sugar Technologists Association (BSTA) at the Dover Convention Centre, Christ Church.

The Agriculture Minister said Government would be able to proceed much faster with plans for the price support if the industry provided it with more complete information in respect of the areas available for reaping the next harvest.

"I repeat my previous assurances that a support price will be announced in respect of the 1984 crop--the mechanics are under active study," Dr. Cheltenham said.

Sugar, which is an important foreign exchange earner for this country, has been under severe pressure in recent years with many of the plantations facing bankruptcy.

In 1982, Government came to the rescue of the industry with a Bds\$20 million soft loan as part of a price support mechanism. Last year, Government again assisted the industry by floating a Bds\$10 million bond issue.

Dr. Cheltenham said that Government was encouraged by the efforts of the sugar industry to broaden its productive base and will do all it can to promote that trend.

However, he said: "This brings me to a point which I want to press upon strongly. There is need for much greater industry participation in the planning of the modernisation process. The industry should be telling Government, not Government telling the industry, what technological and institutional changes have to be made and where there will be put in place.

"The industry should be telling Government and the country at large how it is organising and equipping itself to meet the challenges of the future. The industry should be telling all Barbadians what it is doing to mitigate the negative effects of necessary adjustments, for example, by organising the redistribution of surplus labour among the farmers."

Dr. Cheltenham reminded his audience, that Government adhered to the output target of 120 000 tonnes of sugar outlined in the Barbados Development Plan for 1983-1988.

"This figure was not taken out of the air. It is the quantity that can reasonably be expected with present technology under normal weather conditions, from a harvested cane area of 39 500 acres or approximately 16 000 hectares."

The Minister noted that it was also the level which would provide a more adequate cover for the industry's overhead expenditures.

He said that the industry must do everything in its power to achieve that target.

According to the Minister, it was within the context of that target of 120 000 tonnes of sugar, that Government looked at diversification.

He explained that diversification did not mean the replacement of sugar cane by another crop, however, remunerative temporarily.

"We mean integrated diversification because we are fully conscious of the ecological implications of soil conservation and weed control in Barbados, which can only be met by careful rotation practices."

CSO: 3298/033

OPPOSITION HITS PLANE PURCHASE, COST OF CEMENT PLANT

Military Aircraft

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 25 Sep 84 p 20

[Text]

DR. RICHIE HAYNES, Opposition spokesman for finance, said the Government ordered two "Skyvans for millions of dollars" from an Irish firm in Belfast for the Barbados Defence Force to transport troops and heavy military equipment.

But he told his audience of about 5 000 (a "conservative" police estimate) in Independence Square Sunday night, at a Democratic Labour Party (DLP) rally, the Government would "come and tell you that they are passenger planes, that they can be run on an economic basis by Aero Services, and that they supplement LIAT routes".

Identifying the Irish company as the "Short Brothers", Dr. Haynes said these "military aircraft" whose purchase was opposed by the United States, were "capable of being converted to airlift tanks with guns and that kind of equipment".

He also said that a "Mr. Wilson, here in Barbados", arranged the purchase.

Dr. Haynes was outlining what he termed the "financial and economic chaos" in Barbados. As examples, he mentioned the Arawak Cement Plant, Heywoods Holiday Resort, Carib-

bean Airways and Barbados National Bank.

Calling Heywoods, "almost a white elephant", he said it will run a debt of some \$52 million, unless sales reach \$100 million a year, because each of the 300 rooms cost \$233 000 to build.

Caribbean Airways, which was supposed to be a vital link with the holiday resort, offering cheaper fares between Europe and Barbados, he noted, had now gone to Ghana, in West Africa, to hire a plane to fly for the company.

"Every year they are losing millions of dollars... so they are trying to force BWIA off the route (London to Barbados) on Saturdays, and if they ever try that one, you can be sure that Trinidad will shut down totally on you," he warned.

Dr. Haynes suggested that although the balance sheet of BNB is not yet out, "figures indicate the bank will make a further loss this year, and the deficit is now \$1.5 million. Can you imagine that a bank in Barbados year after year is chalking up a loss, despite the fact you have guaranteed 'sixty something' million to that institution, that you will have to pay for in sugar bonds?"

Cement Plant

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 26 Sep 84 p 18

[Text]

THE opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) mass rally in the Independence Square, last Sunday, focused on several Government pro-

jects which they perceived to have been badly managed.

Receiving attention was the Arawak Cement Plant, St. Lucy, a joint venture between the

governments of Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

Contented DLP's chief spokesman on economic affairs, Dr. Richie Haynes, "It is a serious investment error."

"When we intended to set up a cement plant the first thing we did was to find a market to sell our cement; the second thing we did was to acquire the means of transport, because we knew that was critical in the cement industry—that was the North Point which they (Barbados Labour Party) made a big election issue of. The plant that would have cost less than one third of what they have put in St. Lucy."

Dr. Haynes estimated the losses of the plant this year at some \$16 million, partly because the cement was selling far below the cost of production. The only reason why the price has not gone up, he said, was because "people would go crazy". He said that now Barbados has a plant, the cost of cement is even greater than before.

He added: "Here in Barbados there is a tremendous contraction for the demand for cement because of Government policy relating to building and the taxation on building, without any construction going on—in Trinidad, none; and in the foreseeable future there will be tremendous cut back in public sector expenditure. Jamaica has no money to buy cement; it has its own cement plant anyhow. Guyana has no foreign exchange.

"So what you have is a cement plant that can produce 1 000 bags of cement a day, to sell to the Barbados market ... and they are talking about finding markets at a time when the major established cement producers in the world are dumping cement below the cost of production ... and you the tax payers, can expect to pay for the cement plant."

Barbado's consumption for the product is 60 000 a year.

When Party leader Mr. Errol Barrow touched on the Bar-

bados/Trinidad investment, he said the last bill for the cement plant was not \$138 million as released by Government but \$207 million and it will take over \$30 million a year to service this loan.

"Now the price at which we were going to make and sell cement and make a profit, between three and five million dollars a year, was \$3.90 a bag. Now the cement is being sold at nearly \$11 a bag, and in six months, losing more than what the (original) plant would have cost", Barrow said.

Other speakers included Dr. Erskine Simmons, Mr. Maurice King, and Mrs. Sybil Leacock, declared parliamentary member for St. Peter in the abortive by-election.

Mrs. Leacock, who held supporters (cheering) for some 20 minutes, thanked the electorate of St. Peter for her short election as their representative, noting: "There was never a woman in the history of politics who has gone to the polls twice in five months.

"You have a right to be educated politically," said the headmistress, to the crowd.

Dr. Simmons, however, used his eloquence to "set the record straight"; that there was "no leadership-squabble in the DLP".

He pointed out that the Police Force is suffering from lack of man-power when, at the same time, the Barbados Defence Force was recruiting in the community.

"Crime is where it is at because of unemployment", Dr. Simmons said.

He declared that many contractors working on schools were unable to receive their money for four or five weeks after the scheduled date; and this matter was causing the contractors strain because each had 20 or 30 men to pay.

"Get rid of the jokers" that are running the country, he urged his listeners. He also said he felt that a snap election was being planned.

NEW VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR DESCRIBES JOINT CHALLENGE

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] The new Venezuelan Ambassador to Barbados, Dr. Jose de Jesus Osio has said that Venezuela and Barbados have an important economic and historic responsibility.

He noted that they are called upon to shoulder this responsibility vis a vis the Caribbean region and the international community and as such must answer the challenge to play the prominent roles expected of them.

Dr. de Jesus Osio was speaking during the presentation of his credentials to Governor-General, Sir Hugh Springer yesterday.

The Venezuelan envoy noted that, particularly since Barbados and Venezuela are bound by common interests within CARICOM it was encouraging to note that relations between the two countries were increasing in strength.

The Ambassador said that Barbados and Venezuela had similar interests and aspirations for the continuation of the harmonious relationship of understanding and respect which linked the countries.

He said that with the continued support of their governments both countries will be able to cultivate a deeper understanding.

Sir Hugh Springer said that Barbados had noted with satisfaction Venezuela's willingness to assist countries in the region along the path to greater economic and social development. He referred particularly to the San Jose agreement.

The Governor-General noted that it was the duty of the two countries to accept the challenge of improving the social and economic condition of their peoples as well as achieving regional and international justice.

CSO: 3298/033

CASE FOR GREATER SUBSIDY OF AGRICULTURE PRESENTED

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 25 Sep 84 p 1

[Article by Avonda Scott]

[Text] No kind of agriculture can survive for long without some kind of price support from Government.

This is the opinion of Chairman of the Barbados Shipping and Trading Company Limited, Mr. Douglas Lynch, who has submitted that such support was needed not only in sugar agriculture but in other areas as well.

The Barbados Shipping and Trading company recently formed a new firm, Barbados Farms Limited, to "spin off" the plantations owned by the group.

This decision was reached after the BS & T Group lost nearly \$10 million in operating its plantations in the last three years.

Mr. Lynch noted that the world production of sugar was about 96 million tonnes a year and consumption was around 90 million tonnes, so that every year there was a surplus of about 6 million tonnes.

Noting that the world sugar stocks had been building up over the last few years, he said it did not look as if the price of sugar was going to increase to anything profitable very soon.

He said the world price of sugar was about US 5 cents per pound and in Barbados it cost more than US 25 cents a pound to produce it.

"We have got to decide whether we want to let sugar farms collapse or whether we want to keep them alive; and if we want to keep them alive, we have to subsidise them," he said.

Mr. Lynch noted that some 6 000 people in Barbados depended on the sugar industry for a living.

His own company, which has the public image of being the most financially stable in the country, had to lay off 75 workers when its farms began to lose money. Some 450 people are still employed on the farms.

Mr. Lynch did not think, however, that sugar was the only agricultural sector calling for subsidisation.

He pointed out that nearly every country which has a vigorous agricultural sector subsidised its agriculture.

He said that in the United States, for example, the freest market enterprise country in the world, wheat, corn sugar, soya bean and a host of other crops were subsidised.

"This is because they see agriculture as part of the economy which has got to be supported," he said.

He also noted that the European Economic Community supported dairy farmers and beet growers "and these were supported by taxpayers' money."

"It is not something unique to Barbados. The question is whether any kind of agriculture can long survive without some kind of price support."

"A farmer plants something today and reaps it another year. He has put his money into it now for the next 14 or 15 months. He cannot decide not to be farming in sugar, for example, next month," Mr. Lynch advanced.

"Government should protect all other aspects of agriculture," he emphasised.

CSO: 3298/033

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH NIGERIA--Barbados will soon be exporting air conditioning units to Nigeria. This was stated by Nigerian businessman Chief Olatunde Akinrele, who arrived in Barbados yesterday. Chief Akinrele said that the whole venture would cost US\$10 million. The Nigerian businessman is presently in the island to finalise plans for the business venture, with Gulf Stream Industries who will be exporting airconditioning and refrigerator units to Nigeria. Chief Akinrele said that Nigeria shared a common interest with Barbados in that it was a developing country. He said that both countries stood to gain from the venture rather than if Nigeria had purchased the materials from developed countries. Over 50 000 units are expected to be imported into Nigeria. Chief Akinrele said that his company has a 10 per cent share of the manufacturing market. He added that although his company manufactured these materials they are unable to supply the rising demand. He expressed the hope that through the implementation of the venture, the two countries would be expanding in a number of different areas. In addition to airconditioning units, Nigeria is hoping to import refrigerators and domestic appliances as well as gas burners and lighting accessories. [Excerpt] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 21 Sep 84 p 1]

SLAP AT TRINIDAD PROTECTIONISM--GOVERNOR of the Barbados Central Bank, Dr. Courtney Blackman, says trade protectionist measures introduced by Trinidad and Tobago last year have thrown thousands of Barbadians out of work. Dr. Blackman also said the twin-island state's import licensing regime to curb foreign exchange outflows had severely limited imports from Barbados and seriously damaged the island's international liquidity. The governor's comments were made in a speech to a private sector symposium in Curacao last Thursday. The bank issued the text yesterday. Dr. Blackman said the way forward for Caribbean countries in the next decade is the pursuit of an export-led growth strategy to enhance economic development. [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 25 Sep 84 p 1]

CURACAO CRUDE PURCHASE--THE Barbados National Oil Company Limited has sold some 15 000 barrels of crude oil to Shell Antilles and Guianas Limited for shipment to the Shell Refinery in Curacao. The oil company has made the sale to alleviate a temporary shortage of storage space on the island. A spokesman for the Energy Division of the Ministry of Finance and Planning, explained today the current shortage of storage facilities was occasioned by the oil company increasing its daily production of crude; and by the renovative and up-grading work being done at the Mobil Refinery temporarily reducing storage

capacity. The Barbados National Oil Company now produces about 1 800 barrels of crude oil a day. The spokesman said that although BNOCL is making this shipment of crude at this time, it should be noted that the Mobil refinery will have to continue importing reformat and fuel oil. Reformat is needed to meet the required octane number of gasoline, and fuel oil to meet local requirements and the production of asphalt. [Text] [Bridgetown THE WEEKEND NATION in English 21-22 Sep 84 p 32]

CSO: 3298/034

GOVERNMENT HIT FOR 'FOREIGN TAKEOVER' OF FINANCE MINISTRY

Belize City THE BEACON in English 11 Aug 84 pp 1, 10

[Text]

WITH the economic situation in Belize at a crisis stage, and with general elections drawing nearer and nearer, the Belmopan politicians have pushed the panic button once again.

The Price administration has hired a three-man team of "experts" from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) based in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, to take over the management of the Finance and Economic & Planning Departments.

The ECLAC team includes Economist Dr George Buckford, a Jamaican, Mr Eric Blommestein from Holland, and Mr Francisco Leon from Chile.

A Government Information Service release stated that the team has been hired to assist the government in preparing the first phase of the 1984-88 economic development plan, and advising on its implementation.

But informed sources insist that the ECLAC experts have been given full control of the Finance and Economic Departments, and that the roles of the head public officers have been down-graded to glorified clerks.

During the next three to four months, the situation in the Ministry of Finance, which falls under the portfolio of the Prime Minister, could become interesting. The senior public officers, used to giving orders and fronting for the government time and again during these times of financial crisis, will not take kindly to being bossed around by imported "experts."

But if we know Price, he will simply tell them to take it or leave it. He is at least committed to putting on an economic side-show between now and election time. And his local financial advisers are just not big enough actors.

GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED FOR SEQUESTERING IMF TEAM

Belize City THE BEACON in English 15 Sep 84 pp 2, 3

[Unsigned column "Viewpoint"]

[Text]

THE high-powered team of experts from the IMF has now had a closer look at the economy of Belize. According to Radio Belize, the IMF experts said two things:

1. That there is no need for the Belizean dollar to be devalued.

2. That the recent economic measures taken by government prevented the country from going into a major economic crisis.

The first thing to notice about this whole affair is that the experts came not as mere visitors, not as mere advisors, they came as managers and supervisors. They came to inspect the economy and to prescribe the course of action which the Belize government is to follow over the next few months. At the end of that period, another inspection team will be sent out to see that the Belize government is observing the IMF guidelines. It is therefore the IMF that is setting the economic course of Belize. The Belize government is simply carrying out the orders of the IMF.

The second thing that is worthy of note in this IMF tour, is the fact that the IMF experts were not allowed to speak for themselves. No radio interview was allowed. No television interview was allowed, and no press interview was allowed. They were hustled in the country, taken to Belmopan, where they were kept well away from the media. Clearly, the Price government did not want the IMF officials to talk directly to the people and worst still, they did not want the IMF officials to answer any questions from the local press about the state of the economy of Belize. In any democratic country, the IMF team would have had to meet the press, and would

have had to say what they had to say to the people themselves. The statement by Radio Belize of what the Minister said that the IMF experts said is clearly hearsay. Why were not the IMF members allowed to speak for themselves? What was the PUP government afraid of?

The third thing to note is this. The IMF is a financial institution, yet, the Belize delegation was led by Musa, who just recently became economic minister. The man who is the Minister of Finance and who has been Minister of Economic Development for over 20 years was not a part of the Belizean team. He never even held a discussion with the IMF. Perhaps he was quite rightly too ashamed and embarrassed by the mess into which he had landed the country. Putting Musa to do the dirty work may be good politics, but it certainly is not good financial planning and management. There is an old creole saying that can be quoted with profit here, "Da no fu want a tongue that cow no talk." The IMF officials had their own mouths. They could have spoken for themselves.

Finally, with a steady decrease in earnings and a steady and steep increase in expenses with expenditure, the Belize economy is on a collision course with bankruptcy, and as another creole saying goes, "even Jamesy can see that."

One of two things has to be done. Either we have a rapid increase in production and sale of goods, both at home and abroad, or we slam on the brakes on all imported goods as Jamaica did. It is not possible to increase economic production in the short term. The infrastructure for a massive increase in profitable economic activity just is not in place. So that leaves slamming on the brakes and that means starvation, scarcity, blackmarket and untold human misery. The government understands that it cannot stamp on the brakes in an election year, so it must be waiting until after the elections to deal with the people - if they were to win.

There is one other way out, a massive infusion of short term and medium term credit to tide us over the period when we are putting the needed economic infrastructure into place. Alas, this option is not open to the PUP government. No one wants to lend this PUP government any money. If however, there is a change in government and if that change takes place quickly and smoothly, short term and medium term credit will become available to Belize almost instantaneously. The only real option left to Belizeans and Belize is to change the government and to change the government quickly.

Mr. Price would do Belizeans a big favour if his government resign and call elections as quickly as possible. Mr. Price, the next step is yours.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS INVOLVING UDP REPORTED

Village Victimization

Belize City THE BEACON in English 18 Aug 84 p 8

[Text]

The UDP controlled Council in the Village of San Narciso, Corozal District, has reported that the whole village community is being victimized by Minister of Lands Florencio Marin, for voting the old PUP council out of office.

According to the councillors, responsibility for the issuing of lots to villagers was given to the PUP council, as agent for Marin. Under this plan, a number of lots were issued in the area near Louisville to San Narciso residents.

But after the UDP victory, Marin revoked a number of grants made by his own agents; and as many as 22 villagers have already lost their lots under the PUP victimiza-

tion scheme. Most of the villagers have already commenced paying for their lots, and can produce receipts to prove this. But, as one villager explained, their lots have been "captured" by Marin supporters.

Now Marin has informed the new UDP Village Council that any authority given during the PUP administration has been revoked.

Presumably, that authority will not be returned until the villagers decide to vote PUP once more. They insist that they will not.

Luckily, the problem will be effectively scotched when the Pups are voted out of office in the upcoming general elections.

Fete for Marin

Belize City AMANDALA in English 24 Aug 84 pp 6-7

[Text]

Sunday August 12th was Convention Day for the Toledo South Division of the U.D.P. U.D.P. members from all over the Toledo South converged on the Parish Hall in Punta Gorda to elect the Party's Nominee for the General Elections. Contesting for the nomination were the present Representative, Hon. Charles Wagner, Mr. Leslie Day, and Mr. Anthony Westby.

Speeches were delivered by the contestants as well as by the Party Leader, Sen. Manuel Esquivel, and the National Youth Organizer, Councillor Derek Aikman. A steady stream of voters voted for two hours, after which the ballots were counted. The results of the count made the Hon.

Charles Wagner the winner with 144 votes; second was Mr. Westby with 109 votes, and third was Mr. Day with 55 votes. A total of 314 persons voted, and there were 6 spoilt ballots.

After the count the two losing contenders pledged their full support for Mr. Wagner and the Party.

The day before the convention Mr. Aikman held a meeting with P.G. Youths and formed the nucleus of a U.D.P. Youth Group for the town.

Later that same night a public meeting was held at the Rice Mill Plaza at which the candidates were introduced. The Party Leader and Mr. Aikman also addressed the enthusiastic meeting.

Toledo South Meeting

Belize City AMANDALA in English 24 Aug 84 p 6

[From 2-page spread headed THE UDP BULLETIN, Vol 1, No 29, 26 Aug 84, and carrying the caveat "THE UDP BULLETIN is an official publication of the United Democratic Party, constitutional opposition of Belize. The views expressed in the UDP BULLETIN are not necessarily those of the editorial board of AMANDALA"]

[Text] The Public Park in Burrell Boom was the scene last Sunday of much activity as buses, trucks, pick-ups, cars and even horses were means of transportation for the hundreds of people from surrounding villages and the cayes along with delegates from various districts and the city who participated in the selection of the Party's candidate for the Belize Rural South Division.

The well organized convention was chaired by Pickstock candidate Ramon Vasquez who introduced Guest Speakers from all the electoral divisions.

Party Executive Secretary Rodwell Pinks conducted the nominating procedures and when the floor was opened for nominations Mr. Rudolph Thompson of Burrell Boom delivered a nominating speech in favour of Mr. Jose "Joe" Marin. This was second

ed by Mr. Lincoln Gillett, who also spoke strongly in favour of Mr. Marin.

Mr. Jose "Joe" Marin graciously accepted the nomination. In his acceptance speech he pledged to work hard to bring victory for the party and people. He made mention that he has been visiting the villages in the Belize Rural South Division which presently stretches from Boom off the Northern Road to La Democracia on the Western Road, Gales Point down South and Caye Caulker and Ambergris Caye way out to the sea.

The people of Belize Rural South now have a man who knows and shares their concerns and can and will do something about them. That man is newly chosen United Democratic Party candidate for the Belize Rural South - Jose (Joe) Marin.

UDP REPORTS PUP REJECTION OF ELECTORAL COMMISSION REPORT

Belize City AMANDALA in English 7 Sep 84 p 6

[From 2-page spread headed the UDP BULLETIN, Vol 1, No 30, 9 Sep 84, and carrying the caveat "The UDP BULLETIN is an official publication of the United Democratic Party, constitutional opposition of Belize. The views expressed in the UDP BULLETIN are not necessarily those of the editorial board of AMANDALA"]

[Text]

In 1981, prior to Belize's Independence, the ruling people's United Party and the opposition United Democratic Party entered into a dialogue to deal with some of the political problems faced by the country. Central to the discussions was the U.D.P. charge that the electoral process was not fair and was subject to manipulation by the ruling party.

Specifically, the Representation of the People's Ordinance of 1978 created a 5 man Elections and Boundaries Commission to be in charge of all electoral matters. These five persons were appointed by the then Governor "after consultation with the Premier." Under the new independence consti

-tution, the formula was changed to appointment by the Governor - General. But the Constitution also provides that "in exercise of his functions the Governor-General shall act in accordance with the advise of the Cabinet or a Minister..." thus strengthening the authority of the ruling party in the appointment of the 5 man Elections and Boundaries Commission.

The two political parties, after lengthy discussion, agreed to JOINTLY nominate a 3 man Electoral Review Commission. The first 3 members so appointed quit after six months.

Thus it was that the two parties met again and JOINTLY nominated the present members of

the Review Commission. The two parties also agreed that in view of the fact that they were thoroughly satisfied with the impartiality of the Review Commission, they would be disposed to accepting their recommendations whenever they were presented. with the impartiality of the Review Commission, they would be disposed to accepting their recommendations whenever they were presented. This was in August of 1982. The members of the new group are Rev. Lloyd Lopez of the Catholic Church, Rev. One-simo Pott of the Church of the Nazarene, and Mr. S.A. Adolphus, former Commissioner of Police.

On the 30th July, 1984 the Review Commission presented its report to government. Days later government sent a copy to the Leader of the Opposition and apparently to all PUP newspapers, since they all carried articles attacking the commission and its report. The ruling party thus publicly took a stand in violation of its agreement in 1982, even before sitting down to review the report with the Opposition.

Their attacks on the members of the Review Commission in their pa-

pers constitute a display of bad faith that is disgraceful and intolerable. It is one more instance of their arrogance and disregard for the democratic process. So used have they become to their rubber-stamp committees and boards that they are ill-prepared to deal with a citizens' committee carrying out the task assigned to them with integrity and impartiality.

One imagined challenge to their power by upright and well respected citizens strips away the veneer of commitment to democracy they so carefully construct for foreign observers. But the people of Belize are seeing the true PUP as they have known it for many years. The PUP contempt for the Commission is simply because the commission have now declared what the UDP and the people have always known: the electoral process is unfair and undemocratic.

This week UDP leaders travelled to Belmopan to meet with the ruling party to discuss the recommendations of the Commission, as per the original agreement. The meeting was a futile exercise. The UDP was told quite bluntly that the PUP is the government, that they a-

lone had the authority to appoint the Review Committee, and that they alone have the authority to decide which of the recommendations to accept or reject.

The PUP repeated their position that the manner in which the Elections and Boundaries Commission is selected is a matter of PUP policy, and no one, not even the Review committee, would change that. They charged that the Review Committee had no right to recommend any changes in the Elections and Boundaries Commission, and even went so far as to state that the intention of the PUP was that the committee would merely "review" the electoral process, not try to change it!

In other words, PUP

is boss, so how dare anyone try to tell it what to do!

Well, elections are just around the corner. Election day, the people are the bosses, and even PUPs will come with their tails between their legs begging for votes. But the people are fed up. They want a change, and each new act of betrayal of the people's will makes their desire for change more urgent. No matter what the PUP get up to, the sheer force of overwhelming numbers will win the day for the people and for the UDP.

In this week's issue of the Bulletin, we reproduce the most important recommendations from the report of the Review Commission. Let the people be the judges.

POLITICIANS PLANNING TO RESTRUCTURE ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES

Belize City THE BEACON in English 11 Aug 84 pp 1, 10

[Text]

The Belmopan politicians are reportedly going ahead with plans to drastically change electoral divisions boundary lines, including the moving of whole sections of one division and dumping it into another division.

One of the decisions taken, according to an informed source, is to take a part of Fort George and latch it unto Pickstock and *vice versa*. The PUPs have been attempting to keep the matter a big secret.

But the exercise in adjusting voters' lists will be tremendous, and in an attempt to shorten the process, the registration offices have appar-

ently been instructed to begin registration of new voters to satisfy the still "secret" change of boundaries.

This week the BEACON saw a notice from the Fort George Division Office dated 3rd August, 1984 and addressed to one Mr. James Arnold, informing him that his application has been accepted. Mr. James Arnold resides at 102 Barrack Road, which is in the Pickstock Division.

This type of action by the Elections Office is illegal and frightening, and must be stopped immediately. The new boundaries have not yet been passed into law.

CSO: 3298/035

CANE FARMERS BALK AT GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR SUGAR TAKEOVER

Belize City THE BEACON in English 8 Sep 84 pp 1, 12

[Text]

News reports reaching this newspaper have indicated that Corozal and Orange Walk cane farmers have rejected government's plan to make them become shareholders in Belize Sugar Industries Ltd. (BSI), the locally incorporated concern owned by giant Tate & Lyle of London, which for more than half a century has been responsible for manufacturing and exporting local sugar.

Last year, BSI claimed that it has been losing money for years, and threatened to close shop. This year Belmopan entered into negotiations with

the parent company, which led to the signing of an agreement of intent whereby government committed itself to purchasing more than 70% of BSI shares.

For the last two months, Belmopan has been trying to force cane farmers to take up the shares out of their own pocket. But those negotiations conducted through the two cane farmers associations have gone caput. The farmers say that they were not made parties to the original negotiations that they would in any event be locked out of management (Belmopan has already agreed to retain BSI administration), and that they just do not have that kind of cash.

It seems that the plan now is to use a part of a \$5 million U.S. loan obtained for private sector investment in export ori-

ented industries through President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative, to meet BSI's commitments, which include a down payment of more than a million dollars.

Then the old Libertad factory, now almost obsolete and forever in need of replacement parts, will be completely closed down, leading to a massive retrenchment of redundant staff. That will leave only the Orange Walk factory at Tower Hill operational for the next cane season.

Belmopan politics have finally taken the sugar industry, once the country's most affluent, to the brink of disaster. It is going to be a very long climb back to the top, unless somebody gets sensible and come up with a more feasible plan.

CSO: 3298/038

PRICE ACCUSED OF USING ERRONEOUS ECONOMIC STATISTICS

Belize City THE BEACON in English 18 Aug 84 p 5

[Text]

Businessmen were not amused to listen to the Prime Minister presenting figures which clearly did not represent the truth.

To say that unemployment was only 14%, that inflation was only 3% and that the foreign exchange reserve position was rosy was an attempt to deliberately deceive his listeners. Apparently this man still believes he is living in the fifties when all would accept whatever he chose to dose out. Unfortunately for him "them days are gone forever." People now examine what they hear. The days of gullibility are long gone.

The truth of the matter is that the trade gap has widened with each passing year. Our trade deficit, or what we owe abroad now stands at \$70 millions. It follows that this *ipso facto*, has caused a severe drain on our reserves.

As to the unemployment figure, this has been disputed by *The Voice*

which is owned by four of his own Ministers. The government statistics department has indicated that the figure stands well above 30%. Most of our employment is seasonal. It follows that even in the productive sector there are times in the year, averaging six months, when people are unemployed. Most students cannot find jobs - more than one thousand graduates each year. And most housewives are unemployed. Mr. Price's figures do not represent the truth. They distort the truth.

His inflation figure is equally scandalous. This per cent might represent the increase from 1982 to 1983. When, however, we take the base year 1980, as the statistics department has done, the inflation figure is 35%! The effect of this staggering figure is even more serious when it is considered that there has not been a general wage increase since 1980. The net result is that inflation

triggers off a rise in prices whilst pay remain the same. People therefore buy less and less.

The recent taxes, Belizeans now pay 8% on imports, have helped to make the poor, poorer. This is a direct result of action by the government in power.

Well, he tried to paint a rosy picture. But his speech fell on stony ground. Businessmen are fully aware of the true position. They know that

business is bad and getting worse. And no amount of fictitious figures will change this fact. It does not matter who utters them. In truth, this nation is facing the moment of truth and it behoves us all to confront that reality.

The economy is in shambles and it requires action, courageous action, by competent men and women. Mere platitudes will not placate people. Yu betta Belize dat.

CSO: 3298/037

HOW OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SPURS INVESTMENT

Development Incentives

Belmopan THE NEW BELIZE in English Aug 84 pp 7, 8

[Text]

The Investment Task Force, which comprises representatives of the private and the public sector, is assisted in its functions by the Office of Economic Development in particular the Investment Division. The primary responsibility of the Investment Division is the handling of the functional aspects of investment and export promotion and the servicing of the Investment Task Force. The Investment Division is the administrative arm of Government charged with the task of attracting private investment—both foreign and domestic—and with developing export markets for products from Belize. Ideally, the Investment Division will be a self-contained organisation capable of providing a “one-stop” service to potential investors and exporters.

Some of the functions of the Investment Division include:

1. the formulation of appropriate strategies to attract domestic and foreign private investments;
2. the preparation of project profiles or dossiers of projects for promotion;
3. the preparation of investment promotion tools (brochures, pamphlets, etc.) to be used in attracting investments;
4. the review of applications for development concessions, including assessment of their feasibility;
5. the submission of these applications along with technical evaluation reports, to the

Investment Task Force for screening prior to submission to Cabinet;

6. liaising with private sector organisations involved in investment or export activities

7. the organisation of investment and trade missions to appropriate markets;

8. to assess the export potential of Belizean products, especially non-traditional exports;

9. to set up an investment and trade information library with up-to-date information;

10. to assist existing and prospective investors and exporters with relevant information to help them in making their business decisions.

DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

The Government of Belize offers a number of fiscal and other incentives in order to attract private investments into the productive and service sectors of the economy.

These incentives include:

1. Tax holidays of up to 15 years;

2. Exemption from import duties on machinery and equipment, as well as on raw materials where the final product is re-exported, and on spare parts for specialised machinery;

3. Exemption from taxes on dividends paid from profits during the tax holiday up to an amount equivalent to the shareholder's investment;

4. Guaranteed repatriation of investment as well as profits and returns from capital gains;

5. Carrying forward of net losses incurred during the tax holiday for up to 5 years after expiration of holiday;

6. Rental of factory in an industrial estate on concessionary terms and

7. Preferential access to the CARICOM, EEC, and U.S. markets.

The rationale behind the granting of development incentives is to encourage investment, both local and foreign, in Belize and to assist infant industries to get on their feet. The granting of development incentives is regulated by the Development Incentives Ordinances No. 14 of 1960 and No. 32 of 1973. The 1960 Ordinance covers projects in agriculture, mining,

tourism and services. The 1973 Ordinance deals specifically with industrial, manufacturing enterprises, including deep sea fishing and shrimp farming. This latter Ordinance seeks to put into practice the scheme agreed by CARICOM for "promotion of balanced and harmonious regional development by means of fiscal incentives to industrial enterprises."

Both Ordinances provide that the bases of the granting of a Development Order are:

1. It is an enterprise which will be conducted to the benefit of the economy of Belize;
2. It is either a new enterprise or the expansion of an existing enterprise;
3. It is expedient to do so in the public interest.

In actual practice, numerous factors are taken into account in the granting of a Development Order and its duration, namely:

1. The size and impact of the investment
2. The amount of employment to be generated
3. The foreign exchange earnings or savings
4. The Government revenue implications
5. The extent of local value added
6. The maintenance of a competitive position
7. The profitability of the enterprise
8. The pioneering nature of the enterprise
9. The technology transfer.

DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Belize has an abundance of agriculture and forest lands but as yet no known mineral deposits of commercial significance or a cheap source of energy. As a result Government has accorded top priority in its development strategy to agriculture and agro-industries. The priorities for development in descending order of importance are:

1. Agriculture and livestock production
2. Agro—industries
3. Forestry (especially secondary processing)
4. Tourism (specialized tourism)
5. Light manufacturing industries
6. Aquaculture
7. Mining and oil exploration
8. Handicrafts
9. Deep-sea fishing and processing
10. Offshore assembly plants (export—oriented).

Interview With Musa

Belmopan THE NEW BELIZE in English Aug 84 pp 10-11, 12

[Text] Shortly after Belize attained its independence in September 1981, the government took a decisive step forward in an effort to improve the investment climate here.

This move included the appointment of a high-powered Economic Task Force to examine investment possibilities so as to improve economic development and to attract more investors.

Heading this investment task force as joint chairmen are the Minister of Education and Economic Development, Mr Said Musa, the Minister of Home and Foreign Affairs, Mr Vernon Courtenay and the Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Guadalupe Pech.

From the outset, the eight-man task force which includes government officials and representatives from the private sector including the Financial Secretary, the Governor of the Central Bank of Belize, the General Manager of the Development Finance Corporation, the Director of the Office of Economic Development, the Permanent Secretaries in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Industry and Natural Resources as well as representatives from the Belize Chamber of Commerce and the Private Sector Organisation, knew that they were up to a challenging and demanding job of creating in Belize an atmosphere conducive to investment promotion.

This job of the task force involved removing whatever constraints there might be to investment by streamlining investment procedures and side-stepping administrative and bureaucratic technicalities.

The task force has also assisted in coordinating public sector projects being undertaken by the government with the support of international agencies.

In an interview this month with the Chief Information Officer Norris Hall, Mr Musa spoke about the role of the task force as is outlined above, of the investment climate in Belize and on the topic of economic stability:

CIO: Minister Musa, in your words tell us about the work of the task force?

Minister: The Investment Task Force was set up to coordinate and expedite investment programmes in Belize and to create a one-stop shop for all investors, both local and foreign. It also seeks to reduce and where necessary, eliminate the red tape in securing necessary permits, licences, concessions and incentives in an integrated fashion so as to avoid the need for the investor having to go from Ministry to Ministry to secure information and documents.

As you know, on the task force there are representatives from key ministries and departments of government that have an impact on investment in Belize. These are the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Development Finance Corporation and the Central Bank.

CIO: But aren't there also inputs from the private and business organizations?

MUSA: Yes! We have on the Task Force a representative from the Private Sector Organization, one from the Belize Chamber of Commerce and one individual and productive businessman.

This is an important collaborative effort between the public and private sector. First of all it provides a direct channel input from the private sector to government at the highest level.

Secondly it is the on-going consultation process between these two sectors which view development as a national effort and which is not something to be confined to the domains of either one. It requires close and harmonious support if we are to achieve real and very meaningful growth and development within a short time.

In short, having attained our political independence, government sought to create a dynamic mechanism to bring about economic independence through the work, in part, of the investment task force which gives a high priority to the development of new pioneer industries in Belize, essentially in agriculture, agro industries, forestry, fisheries and tourism.

CIO: Back in 1981 with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, a New Zealand consortium,

Berl-Cawtran was asked to assist in determining priorities and implementing projects with emphasis on production. This year that firm wrapped-up their assignment. What will be the outcome of that study?

MUSA: The UNDP and Berl-Cawtran have made various recommendations to government which we are in the process of implementing. One such recommendation was for the establishment of the Office of Economic Development, which primarily is designed to provide a coordinated and cohesive framework for all economic cooperation programmes in the country, and secondly to expand on the serious and important work of planning in the social and economic sectors.

We have also been identifying major projects for infrastructural development for which we are now seeking funding from the external agencies.

One of the major components in order to attract external funding for projects is to be able to have in place clearly identified and cost evaluated projects. This has been the plague of many Third World countries, in that we have been weak on project identification and preparation. Much time is wasted in this work. We are now seeking to be in a position where when dealing with our friends in the international community apart from the USA and Canada (and here I am thinking of the EEC, Scandinavian countries and Japan), we will be able to provide them with all the information necessary on projects for which we require funding.

CIO: What are some of these major projects?

MUSA: A major one is a housing project whereby 500 houses per annum will be built countrywide but with an emphasis where the need is greatest, in Belize City and its surroundings. This project is about to get underway very shortly with the assistance of the Venezuelan government. The funds will be channeled through the Belize National Building Society.

Also in the public sector we have a project for the expansion of the runway at the Belize International Airport and for a new terminal building. And a new Belize City Hospital for which we are negotiating with a French firm utilizing possible export credit from the French Government is also in the pipeline.

In the private sector, of pressing import-

ance right now, are several agro-industries, food processing plants, a dairy industry, more hotel accommodations and additional airline servicing to Belize. These are some of the projects that are getting top priority consideration. Several development concessions have also been granted by the government for cattle ranches and meat processing plants.

Of course, the major expansion of the citrus industry is going on and this includes the rehabilitation and expansion of the citrus orchards. Concessions have also been approved for a game reserve and a wildlife resort.

CIO: *What is the position in the sugar industry? The government has indicated an interest in taking over 75 percent of the shares in that industry. What is behind all this?*

MUSA: The government has signed a letter of intent to take over a majority shares in the industry—Yes! One of the major objectives is to preserve the industry. If the government did not move at this time, then there was the distinct possibility that the Libertad sugar factory in the Corozal District would have been closed down, thereby displacing hundreds of workers and their families.

Although corporate interest might not put a high premium on employment, it is the duty of a government to protect the jobs of our people. Indeed employment creation is a major objective of this government.

Secondly, it is felt that with greater involvement of the Belize government and the cane farmers in the industry, we stand a better chance to attract softer loans to the industry as well as a bigger sugar quota. Already, as you know, the decision has been taken (by the U.S. administration) to regionalize the sugar quota for Caricom countries whereby if there is a shortfall in sugar by any of the Caricom member countries the others with surpluses will be able to take up the shortfall. Belize is one of the Caricom states that has consistently produced in excess of its quota to the European and U.S. sugar markets and should therefore benefit from this arrangement. This is not to say that we do not see the pressing need for greater diversification in the economy. But while we are diversifying we must consolidate what we have already.

CIO: *Let us take a look at the overall economic picture and the present financial situation. Do you have any suggestions that will help to bail us out of this financial bind?*

MUSA: The economic situation is a difficult one and we need not belabour that. The world recession with all its attendant evils: poor prices for commodities, the Mexican devaluation and the expenses of servicing debts because of the high interest rates in the United States are only some of them.

I think that the first thing we must recognize is that because the Belizean economy is so tied to the U.S. economy, the improvements that we are seeing in that country will in time filter through to our system. Secondly the economic crisis has in a sense provoked us to streamline our national economic system and to create more efficiency in production. This has been necessary in any case. I also agree that after years of undue strain placed on the Central Government by the Statutory Boards, particularly the Belize Electricity Board, the Marketing Board and the Banana Control Board, government has taken the necessary concrete steps to reduce many of the inefficiencies on the part of these para-statal bodies and to improve their management structure. This will pay tremendous dividends in the long run.

The third thing that the (economic) crisis has brought about is a greater awareness of some basic home truths. For instance that we have to live within our means and that we cannot allow the consumption patterns of a highly developed society to run way ahead of the productive capacity of our national economy. We may not like to say this politically but in the truth and in fact, in order to achieve greater productivity there must be some restraint on prices and income.

Finally, for a young and developing nation like Belize, the struggle for economic development must be waged at two fundamental levels: greater self sufficiency, particularly in food production and a greater emphasis on export industries.

CIO: *You have been talking about approaches to economic development and the need for industries to stimulate growth and national development. Government's economic development plan now gives serious consideration to the development of the tourist industry in Belize. Many opinions*

have been expressed on the pros and cons of tourism development here. What are yours?

MUSA: If tourism is to have a major impact on the development of Belize, which it can have, we must ensure that there is a clear linkage with the agricultural sector. What do I mean? We must ensure that the food consumed in our hotels comes from locally produced food items: beef, chickens, eggs, our vegetables, tropical fruit and so on. These are the things we should be feeding our tourists and not the expensive imported food items from abroad. We also need to upgrade our service industries so as to promote better service to the tourist. Unless we have this linkage, we may find in the long run, as indeed has happened in other countries, that tourism could become a net drain for foreign exchange. But once we keep this linkage of factors before us then certainly tourism can be a major boost to the economy.

Our flora and fauna, our barrier reef which is the largest in the Western Hemisphere, our majestic ancient temples of the Maya civilization provide us with the necessary attributes for a major tourist industry.

CIO: *How much are we basing our future economic development on the prospects for the discovery of oil?*

MUSA: Oil, as has been said elsewhere is a viscous matter. It can work for good and it can work to the detriment of a country's economy. Clearly the benefit of finding oils, if properly utilized, can transform the infrastructure of a country. On the other hand, the danger also exists that we can become too dependent on the oil industry, and borrow excessively based on this economy. Again, if the discovery of oil in Belize is not properly handled it could so distort the economy, particularly the wage scales, that it would push back our agricultural programmes. That would be disastrous.

Bearing all that in mind, we are clearly not basing any future plans on any new-found wealth. We have to plan on the basis that it does not exist. Of course the prospect of finding oil would appear to be encouraging. We happen to be poised between two producing countries, Mexico and Guatemala. Because of this, additional planning has been going on in the event that if we do find petroleum we will have in place the necessary structures to take full advantage of it and to ensure that it complements the entire national development programme. In this regard the Office of Econ-

omic Development recently signed an agreement with the UNDP to provide the Ministry of Natural Resources with the services of a highly qualified petroleum expert.

CIO: *Do you believe that the discovery of oil here would increase the threat to our national security?*

MUSA: This is also a fact to take into account in considering this matter. However, the gains we have made since the attainment of independence in winning international support for our existence would, I believe prevent any external power from engaging in any reckless intervention against our territorial integrity and sovereignty.

CIO: *Is there a national philosophy in directing our process of development? What is the main thrust in this development programme?*

MUSA: As far as this philosophy goes, the party in government (for which I am proud to serve) subscribes to a development in which the Belizean person is at its centre. We're not talking about economic growth for its own sake because clearly it would be easy to let others develop Belize for us. But then rather they would do so for their own benefit, not for the benefit of Belize. Rather what we see is a partnership for development at various levels:

(1) At the governmental level we seek a partnership between Belize and the friendly nations of the world to assist us in economic cooperation programmes for mutual benefit.

(2) We seek partnership between the foreign investors and local investors. We give every encouragement to joint ventures and

(3) At the domestic level we seek a partnership between the public sector and the private sector working for the common good, and by the private sector I include the entrepreneur, the farmer, the worker, the industrialist.

With regard to your question about the main thrust for development, it is to make Belize a modern economically independent nation through increased competitiveness efficiency in the use of our resources by the public and the private sector and to promote, motivate and involve all Belizeans in the economic development process by fostering democratic participation, qualities of initiative, self-reliance, thrift and hard work.

INTERACTION OF CORRUPTION, ECONOMIC STAGNATION ANALYZED

Belize City AMANDALA in English 14 Sep 84 p 9

[Text] Corruption began in earnest in the PUP government in the early 1960s because of the retention of power syndrome. Having tasted the heady wine of power, the new PUP Ministers were eager for more. Power was like crackerjack; the more they ate, the more they wanted.

Official ministerial salaries were small, and the PUP style of politics in the midst of Belize's economic stagnancy meant that the frequency of disbursements of "handouts" (in return for political loyalty) grew rapidly.

When the ministers first began to make "deals" and "take things" and "bite live ones," they rationalized that the money so obtained was being used to help people, more frankly, buy political loyalty by means of doles to the unemployed, small loans which would never be repaid, gifts for special occasions like birthdays, weddings, funerals, and so on.

But little by little, the scope of the corruption grew. The money obtained began to maintain sweethearts, pay for sexual favors, persecute political opponents; the money travelled to foreign numbered accounts; it was invested in relatives' names, and it bought foreign properties and businesses.

So that today, it is no longer a desirable for the PUP ministers to remain in power. It is positively a must, or all hell will break loose.

But for many years, the fact the economy was so stagnant, the fact that so many people were unemployed, dependent, or barely surviving, meant that there was a significant percentage of the electorate who turned their heads away from ministerial corruption on the grounds that they stood to benefit from it through handouts.

But the fact is that the ministers became so corrupt that economic development became impossible. It was too expensive to do business in Belize. You had to pay off too many people to get started, and if you did begin to make money the demands from the ruling party became downright crushing.

Some years ago, it was decided locally and regionally that Belize should concentrate on agriculture. Government gave heavy lip service to agriculture, but ministerial corruption destroyed farmers in the field.

It was easy and profitable for ministers to sell import licenses for foreign crops. Local farmers could not afford to pay off: they were barely surviving. The markets have been flooded by Mexican and Guatemalan crops. Local farmers were forced to turn to weed. Food crops were not paying.

This week there is a rice shortage in Belize. The Toledo farmers decided months ago they would plant only for their own consumption because they were losing money planting for government.

Legal farming is failing in Belize. The government pays only lip service to legal farming. Corruption is too entrenched. Its mating with economic stagnancy will produce unrest. It always does.

CSO: 3298/035

EDITORIAL HITS GOVERNMENT FOR OPENING TIES WITH ISRAEL

Belize City DISWEEK in English 14 Sep 84 p 2

[Editorial: "Israel Now--South Africa Next?"]

[Text]

The decision of the Belize Government to establish relations with the Zionist State of Israel is one of the worst and most shameful acts of the independent Belize. There are many more reasons why this is so than we can state in this editorial; we therefore confine ourselves to three main reasons.

First - although, since its creation by force in 1948 Israel has pursued a policy aimed at expanding its territory at the expense of its neighbours and at exterminating the Palestinian people, the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon creates a special situation. That aggression violates, in a particularly brutal manner, the basic norms of international law and conduct, as well as the United Nations Charter. The Non-Aligned Movement, of which Belize is a member, called the invasion "one of the most ignominious pages in human history," and called on its members to break diplomatic relations with Israel. Yet here we are, actually creating new diplomatic relations with a warmongering State that invades its neighbours (good example to Guatemala?), and at a time when it is still occupying a part of Lebanon! Not even the horrors of the massacres at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps made our leaders think twice before entering into relations with such a murderous State.

Secondly - establishing relations with Israel at this time is a particularly cruel insult to Belizeans of African descent and others who pray and yearn for the liberation of southern Africa and

the independence of Namibia, now under the boot of the racist South African regime. Recently the Non-Aligned Movement condemned the increasing collaboration between Israel and the racist regime in South Africa, in particular the military and nuclear fields, which has enabled the Pretoria regime to unleash increased aggression against the African peoples in South Africa and Namibia, as well as against the African Front-Line States, particularly Angola. This collaboration is not surprising, however, since the United Nations has already declared that Zionism is Racism, and Zionism is the leading ideology in Israel.

Thirdly - does it not matter to us that Israel is the main supplier of arms to Guatemala, that it has signed a military agreement with Guatemala, that it has established a weapons factory in Guatemala, and that it trains the Guatemalan military?

Stupidly, in our opinion, some are actually arguing that because of its military collaboration with Guatemala we should establish relations with Israel. A sort of brilliant theory of reward your enemy's friend, perhaps to make him less helpful to your enemy. As if Israel would ever choose Belize over Guatemala! It never did so at the U.N. and it never will as long as it is a racist, expansionist, aggressive State. In all that, it is so much closer to the Guatemalan regime.

Look at what happened with Taiwan. Our political and business leaders were all set to go there and sell themselves for a few dollars more, but Taiwan itself (who has offered military assistance to Guatemala) slapped them away at Guatemala's insistence. In a crunch Israel would do the same.

By establishing relations with Israel, Belize is committing a profoundly immoral international act that will cost us dearly. We are now exposed as blatant opportunists willing to sell all our principles, our self-respect, and even our security interests for a few dollars.

What can the international community expect of us in the future? What's to stop us now from establishing relations with South Africa if the price is right? Flirt with Taiwan, play with Israel - you might well end up in bed with South Africa!

BRIEFS

POLICE AUGMENTATION--The Police Department last week announced that it will soon be increasing the manpower of the force in the Orange Walk District. An official release quoted Acting Commissioner Bernard Bevans as stating that the move is an attempt to put a lid on crime, which has been on the increase at an alarming rate in that area, most of them drug related. But neither the Police nor the Information Service has offered any statistics on the volume of drug related crimes in the Orange Walk District or in other districts of the country, and the seriousness of the problem can only be assessed by the concerned public by speculation. It would be interesting to find out how many of these drug related crimes were committed by aliens, who have already or were about to be granted permanent residential status by Belmopan. [Text] [Belize City THE BEACON in English 8 Sep 84 p 1]

CSO; 3298/038

NEVES' ABILITY TO UNIFY OPPONENTS; CLOSEST ADVISERS VIEWED

Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 19 Sep 84 pp 24-29

[Text] It seems impossible to capture the politician Tancredo Neves within the web of a definition. That is what his opponent Paulo Maluf will tell you, after he was surprised last week by the announcement given at a press conference by the opposition candidate that he is not, nor does he want to be, the "anti-Maluf" candidate in this race for the presidency of the republic. It was exactly to play that role that he entered the campaign a month ago, consecrated as presidential candidate by the convention of the Brazilian Democratic Movement (PMDB). But now, with Maluf apparently aground and thus losing press space, Tancredo's advisers concluded that it was time to leave the competitor somewhat aside.

According to the line of thinking of Tancredo's advisers, each direct attack by Tancredo gives Maluf a chance to reply and opens up press space for him. Before the campaign committee gathered one Saturday in Brasilia, the candidate heard the suggestion and decided: "I know, I'm going to say that I am not anti-Maluf." When the advisers considered the tactic too bold, Tancredo explained: "Don't worry. You're going to see the bad response he will make." The following day, Maluf, upset by that awkward phrase responded by asking if Tancredo had "Malufed."

Coconut Milk

In favor of Maluf, it can be said that not even do Tancredo's closest friends always manage to understand him. On the 9th of this month, he traveled to Sao Paulo for an exhausting schedule and asked his adviser and publicity man Mauro Salles to prepare a plan of escape for him before the commitments stretched till dawn. It was after midnight when Tancredo fulfilled the last commitment: an interview given to Bandeirantes TV. Salles then noted that the candidate was besieged by a vast following as he was leaving the station and intervened: "Doctor Tancredo, the chicken soup is waiting for us at the hotel."

In the face of the words "chicken soup" said before so many witnesses, Tancredo--who does not smoke but drinks wine and whiskey moderately--decided to improvise a show of physical energy. He grabbed banker Olavo Setubal and Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso and with one on each arm, commanded: "Let's go get a streak at Rodeio." The group closed the barbeque restaurant at around 3 o'clock in the morning, with the cooks who had already finished working

lined up around Tancredo's table. The moral of the story is that at 74 years of age, the oldest candidate for president in the history of Brazil, engaged in a veritable political marathon of 5 months of campaigning, knows that he cannot appear to be old in public.

He can only do so in private. And in those ever rarer situations of isolation, he takes care of himself with a diet based on coconut milk, a prescription from Pernambuco Deputy Thales Ramalho, and a lot of fruit at breakfast, an old mania of his to which politics has lately been adding new tastes. A few days ago, called to a morning meeting in his apartment in Brasilia, a politician found him carefully tasting a dish of sapote fruit, which Tancredo had never tried. It was a present from a northeastern governor--an Andreazza follower, as the candidate make it a point to explain.

Complicated Maneuver

Tancredo was obviously hinting that there were signs there of a supporter on demand. But he let it go at that because one of the characteristics of the opposition candidate and one which makes him so difficult to classify is that he does not reveal secrets or give people information that they do not already have. He can be a model of insincerity--Tancredo is capable, for example of denying an authentic fact until the end. A few weeks ago, he denied his meeting in Rio de Janeiro with Planning Minister Delfim Netto, which not only occurred but which must surely be repeated many times until the end of Joao Figueiredo's administration in March of next year.

After all, to come to an understanding with Delfim is a necessity for anyone who plans to assume the government in a complicated transition maneuver. And Tancredo has experience in the field. Last year, in forming his cabinet in Minas Gerais, he placed two experts with National Renewal Alliance (ARENA) backgrounds in the economic area ministries--Ronaldo Costa Couto in planning and Luis Rogerio Mitraud in finance--to keep channels open with Brasilia in an opposition government. Then, to counterbalance that, he gathered from the left wing of the Minas PMDB the secretary of labor, Ronan Tito, and of education, Otavio Alves de Brito.

A little over 2 years ago, during a phase when his party was torn with doubt about the advisability of "mounting the ramp" to Planalto Palace to talk with President Figueiredo, Tancredo--then a senator, on the eve of running for governor of Minas--took a short-cut to that meeting. He went directly to Torto Grange [Figueiredo's country home] and secretly had breakfast with Figueiredo. When the story leaked, Tancredo did not have the slightest qualms about denying it vehemently to several reporters, and sometimes feigning indignation over the rumor. Today, he admits that it was true and argues that he had promised the president to keep the secret. "I was more royalist than the king," he declared.

Political Cocktail

The Tancredo who denies true stories would certainly be called insincere if he did not coexist with the other Tancredo, capable of expressing his opinions even when they are politically inopportune. In this campaign, he has already

told PMDB economists in Sao Paulo that he may appoint businessmen to his cabinet; before Belo Horizonte employers, he supported the absolute priority of restoring wages; and in a recent television program he proclaimed himself to be "of the center." Maluf himself, the Social Democratic Party (PSD) candidate, follows the style and says he is "of the center-left."

In the Tancredo formula, that is the way reconciliation is brought about--including in strictly operational terms, the reconciliation of political commitments with the freedom to administer without the party or ideological inhibitions that usually weigh on an opposition governor. If he is elected president next 15 January by the Electoral College, it is assumed that he will make a political cocktail in his cabinet similar to the one he adopted in Minas Gerais, combining the diverse sample of Brazilian politics that has joined in the trail of his candidacy: opposition people with refugees from the PSD; businessmen with union activists; the strong kernel of Minas and Sao Paulo people who launched him, with the shell of northeastern votes that have become decisive for his victory in the Electoral College.

Tancredo manages to display the same calm countenance in dialog with such diverse personalities as Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva and Paraguayan President Alfredo Stroessner, or Deputy Miguel Arraes and banker Amador Aguiar. But only the candidate knows--if he has actually already thought at length about the matter, something that he himself denies--how he will bring together so many different tendencies in a government that is logical and consistent. The case of Minas Gerais gives one an idea of the method, but it does not clarify the content nor the names of his cabinet. No one can say today with certainty who has a locked position in Tancredo Neves' cabinet. For his part, "the broader the front the better, until the Electoral College." On the one hand, that gives him freedom of choice because, as former Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen says, "the more support now, the fewer commitments later." And on the other hand, it grants him the possibility of touring the country in this campaign with clear promises, understandable by the public, an essential trump for a candidate who wants to be popular and no longer wants to be simply anti-Maluf.

Vast Background

In other words: by hiding too much, the opposition candidate can get lost. That risk has already been perceived by Maluf who, in the face of Tancredo's paralysis when it comes to saying in practice what he is going to do in the government, accuses the opposition candidate of not having any program. The matter is viewed through another prism by the secretary of government of Sao Paulo, Roberto Gusmao, a militant Tancredo supporter for several months. "The idea that the Tancredo government will be a transition government is easy to understand by political and business circles," says Gusmao. "For the people, however, the important thing is the concrete changes that will occur in his government and the change of style that Doctor Tancredo represents." The problem is to know how to make him represent on the speaker's platforms of this campaign the promises which, according to Gusmao, he embodies tacitly.

In a first phase of government, which would unfold until 1986, such promises are summarized in the promotion of "changes that respond to the most felt problems of society, such as unemployment, the drop of income, inflation, the National Social Security Institute (INPS), hunger and safety." Then, after the 1986 general elections would come the second phase, "of institutional changes with a new constitution that will define a new political regime." Thus, a movement is beginning within the Tancredo camp itself aimed at framing the candidate in a government plan that can be displayed in public. More or less the same way that in 1961 for different reasons, Tancredo found himself forced to improvise the program of the parliamentary government in less than a month.

On that occasion, he was already a politician with a vast background. He entered public life in 1934 as councilman for Sao Joao del-Rei, his native city, where the family established roots in 1796 with the arrival of the Portuguese merchant, Jose Antonio das Neves, great-great-great grandfather of the presidential candidate. His career could have ended right there because in 1937, with the beginning of the Estado Novo dictatorship and the suspension of Legislative activities in the country, Tancredo lost his seat and left politics. He became a lawyer and in that capacity suffered the only two arrests in his life--defending a railroad workers' strike in 1937 and a student movement in 1939. However, the career would be resumed later and would end up carrying Tancredo to all offices to which a politician can aspire: after councilman, state deputy, federal deputy, senator, governor, minister and even prime minister. All that remains now is to be president.

Rising Course

The Tancredo of today, the exponent of the skillful policy of reconciliation, who this year marks a half century of his career, began to emerge with the redemocratization in 1946, being elected state deputy for the extinct Democratic Social Party (PSD), squeezing into last place on the slate. From there to national politics was a hop. Four years later, he had his first seat as federal deputy and, without any stops, reached the position of minister of justice in Getulio Vargas' second government in 1951.

In that inaugural stage of his career, the Estado Novo ousted him and redemocratization returned him to his rising course. From that, he gained one certainty: Tancredo is convinced to this day that every political retreat in the country ends up sooner or later by reaching him and hurting him, including the 1964 military regime, which found him as leader of the Joao Goulart government and pushed him into 20 years of opposition. In this presidential succession which finds him on the trail of the highest office in his public life, he asserts that his greatest fear is that there may be a retreat. "They always get me," confessed Tancredo.

His style was practically ready when he became prime minister 23 years ago, inaugurating the brief parliamentary system of the Brazilian Republic. In order for his name to be voted on by congress, it was necessary for it to be presented together with the cabinet and the government program. He prepared it in a few weeks and even today that document--which did not get to be completely put into practice because the government lasted only 9 months, from September 1961 to June 1962--remains a faithful picture of Tancredo in power.

Shock-Absorber

"If he wanted to all he would have to do would be to resurrect that program in order to carry out an excellent administration," said businessman Walter Moreira Salles, who was finance minister under the parliamentary system and retains an autographed copy of that relic. Tancredo himself is not so certain: "In 1961 reconciliation was easier," he observed. "Our foreign debt was only \$3 billion. We had more social order, more stability in the middle class, less of an ideological factor." In his view, the last 20 years converted Brazil into a country much closer to what in the jargon of the regime is called "communization."

Despite that reservation, the circumstances were like those of 1984. There was an agreement with the IMF in effect, there was national dissatisfaction over inflation; it was a period of unemployment and social unrest. Above all, Tancredo had to function as a shock-absorber between the military, the endorers of the conservative policy and the Goulart government, which was assuming power with a reformist thrust. In the words of the introduction of the program itself, it was an attempt to make a "government of real national union."

Tancredo's plans in 1961 looked at the same time to the left and to the right. He had urgent plans to increase the supply of "productive" jobs, improve housing and basic health care, take care of the Northeast, then in the "process of net disinvestment," and control the remittance of the profits of the foreign companies established in the country. He proposed an intricate tax reform, in the context of which would later come the discounts at the source of wage-earning taxpayers, and multiplied indirect taxes--on liquid fuels, on sumptuary goods, on vehicles and tires and so on. It was from this program, for example, that the Central Bank was born.

Silent Stubbornness

A sign of Tancredo's faithfulness to his 1961 proposals passed unnoticed when he was a member of the chamber's economic committee during the Ernesto Geisel administration and the corporation law reached congress. Formally, it was an initiative from the Finance Ministry and Tancredo was in the opposition. But he was the one who took care in congress to see that the bill would pass unscathed through all the attempts at amendment. Such zeal would lead the then Minister Simonsen to admit that even in the opposition Tancredo always understood that the public administration has to function.

As a matter of fact, it was much more than that. The corporation law was already a concern of his government program which he was not able to implement in time but which even delineated the outlines of the future Negotiable Securities Commission to oversee the stock market. Strangely enough, Simonsen's bill was drafted in 1975 in the office of Attorney Jose Luis Bulhoes Pedreira, one of the largest law offices in Rio de Janeiro, the same one that served as the birthplace of Tancredo's program. Bulhoes continues to be a friend of the former prime minister, for whom he worked in the National Planning Commission under the parliamentary system.

The reputation as a conciliator which Tancredo has acquired in half a century of politics is due less to his disposition to do what others want him to do than to a silent stubbornness in doing what he himself wants to do. That is the key that, according to persons who know him well, such as publicity man Mauro Salles, leads to understanding his way of being. Salles was Tancredo's secretary under the parliamentary system and lived with him in Brasilia for 9 months in a room at the rear of Ipe Grange now occupied by Minister Leitao de Abreu. The other room was occupied by a young man who was to become one of the most important officials in the Figueiredo administration, the present secretary of federal revenue, Francisco Dornelles--Tancredo's nephew and included in all the lists of "strongmen" in his possible government.

Closed Circle

Since the campaign began last month, Salles has again become one of his closest collaborators, charged with formulating election tactics. He asserts that the candidate listens a lot, does not say much but only acts according to his own mind. When he was prime minister, the Tuesday meetings of the Council of Ministers lasted 5 hours. According to Pernambuco businessman Armando Monteiro, who held the portfolio of agriculture, the meetings lasted so long "because Tancredo wanted to keep abreast of all matters." Thales Ramalho anticipates that if he should become president, "it is going to be difficult for his chief of the Civilian Household." First, because Tancredo knows how to command and is jealous of his authority--he is likely to receive a deputy standing up and with a terse phrase ask him to return later, after scheduling an audience. Second, because he does not relinquish political decisions. That is his speciality although, contrary to the majority of Brazilian congressmen, he likes administrative and economic affairs. After all, his curriculum vitae included stops in management positions in the Bank of Brazil, the National Economic Development Bank (BNDE) and the Real Estate Credit Bank of Minas Gerais.

Thales Ramalho is a member of the closed circle of persons whom Tancredo really listens to--included in that circle since the beginning of the year is the Parana Senator Affonso Camargo Netto, one of the coordinators of the campaign. Last March, Thales went from Brasilia to Claudio in the interior of Minas, summoned to the anniversary party in the governor's ranch--this year the party fell on Carnival Sunday. There, the deputy was riddled with questions about the succession and the national political picture. He left with the impression that the Tancredo candidacy was taking shape even though he had not gotten any signals in that direction. In April, another friend, attorney and former Governor of Bahia, Antonio Balbino, received Tancredo in his office on Carmo Street in Rio de Janeiro and told him: "You are going to have to prepare yourself to be the candidate for president of the republic." Tancredo changed the subject. He only agreed to discuss the subject when the fruit ripened.

The lack of confidants does not mean that Tancredo does not have trusted informants--and that is the criterion by which one measures who's who in the Tancredo camp. On that list in addition to Mauro Salles and Thales Ramalho is his nephew Dornelles, who last year was asked to occupy the Planning

Secretariat of Minas Gerais. He did not accept it but indicated Costa Couto and Mitraud for the government and before circumstances made it advisable that he get lost, he used to speak daily with his uncle. It was in his home in Brasilia that in other days Tancredo held meetings with General Golbery do Couto e Silva, while still chief of the Civilian Household of the Presidency of the Republic.

Clash of Ideas

Another outstanding name is that of banker Walther Moreira Salles who, in addition to his closeness at the time of the parliamentary system, lives in Rio de Janeiro in the same building where Tancredo has his Rio apartment on Atlantica Avenue. Moreira Salles relates that seen up close, Tancredo's image sometimes changes. From a distance, everyone considers his skill to be his principal political trait. Moreira Salles prefers to underscore his courage. He saw him battle with Goulart in 1962 to accept an agrarian reform project that the president had promised to delay at the request of the Catholic Church.

Just as he never entrusts his most intimate intentions to his friends, Tancredo does not let political differences separate him irretrievably from his adversaries. His running mate in this succession, Jose Sarney, was the only one to raise his voice in the senate to criticize him last year at the session in which Tancredo bade farewell to the chamber with a speech regarded on a par with any anthology of Brazilian parliamentary oratory. "Everyone was lavish in his praise and I could not let it pass without making a remark," explained Sarney, who has been speaking at Tancredo's side as his candidate for vice president. It is proof that Tancredo really practices one of his maxims: "It is ideas that clash, not men."

Picture on the Wall

That also applies in the family. Deputy Aecio Cunha, married until 3 years ago to Ines Maria, 45 years of age and Tancredo's daughter, managed to conduct a long political career of opposition to his father-in-law. In the 1978 elections, Tancredo became a candidate to the senate for the Brazilian Democratic Movement (MDB) and Aecio, to the chamber for the National Renewal Alliance (ARENA). They were rivals but during the whole campaign they shared the same campaign office in the center of Belo Horizonte. "He frequently took down messages for me--I was president of the state ARENA--from the grassroots supporters in the interior, asking for the shipment of campaign placards of Tancredo's opponents to the senate," recalls Aecio Cunha. He and Ines Maria separated but the coexistence with Tancredo left the way clear for Aecio Cunha to join his former father-in-law for the first time, entering the Liberal Front in July.

The opposition candidate has two other children--Maria do Carmo, 43 years of age and married to a director of the Real Estate Credit Bank, Ronaldo de Valle Simoes, and Tancredo Augusto, 41 years of age and assistant secretary of the Minas government, about whom little was known outside of Minas Gerais until now. Thus, the family gravitates around its public functions--which does

not prevent it from separating one thing from the other whenever necessary. When he moved to the Ipe Grange, his wife, Dona Risoleta, his first girl friend whom he married 46 years ago, wanted to transfer part of the couple's private art gallery to the new residence. Tancredo vetoed it: "Nobody is going to see those paintings go in but everybody is going to see them leave."

Even in his relationship with painting, Tancredo manages to stamp a little of his style, both personal and of a politician, in strokes that like himself are very visible but quite ambiguous. On the wall of his private library in Rio de Janeiro there is an oil by Portinari, painted especially for Tancredo Neves. It is a Don Quixote but a Don Quixote never seen before. He is in the saddle of a noble steed and the eyes of the horseman are not those of a visionary; they are the eyes of a victor.

8711

CS0: 3342/156

ROMNEY DISCUSSES ECONOMY, VISITS EUROPE, CANADA

Road Town THE ISLAND SUN in English 15 Sep 84 pp 1, 2, 4, 14, 15

[Text]

In a lengthy public address, the Chief Minister, The Honourable Cyril B. Romney gave a thorough review of the economic state of the Territory. He said that at the taking over of the Government by the newly elected representatives about nine months ago, there was a deficit of \$595,000, instead of what had been expected to be a surplus. He said that a number of adjustments had to be made in view of the inherited deficit inasmuch as the Territory is no longer grant-aided in its operation. In view of the circumstances, Mr. Romney said, "I have instituted in the first half of 1984 - and I intend in the same way to continue stringent efforts in dealing with the deficit. And myself and colleagues have instituted monitoring to avoid unnecessary spending." Continuing, the Chief Minister said, "The results are that the first half of 1984 went by with no emergency expenditure regarding contingency authorization and only thirteen (13) items of operation and capital expenditure have had to be supplemented by legislative action.

The Chief Minister spoke of positive steps his Adminis-

tration has taken in the expenditure of funds so as to maintain fiscal balance.

He spoke throughout his address of optimism in the growth of the economic life of the Territory. He referred, among other things, to the recently enacted International Business Companies Act. "I believe," Mr. Romney said, "that the Act will come to be regarded as the most significant piece of corporate legislation to reach the Territory's Statute Book in a decade or more."

The Chief Minister spoke on the present and projected future development of the BVI and its economic advancement. (Note: Although lengthy, the Address will be carried in full in this newspaper, commencing with this issue.)

Chief Minister, Hon. C.B. Romney, and Financial Secretary, Kenneth Bain, left the Territory Tuesday, 4th September for official visit to London, Rome and Toronto.

While in London, Chief Minister Romney and Mr. Bain will meet Minister for Overseas Development, Rt. Hon. Timothy Raison to dis-

cuss matters of importance to the future development of the BVI, the Minister of State, FCO Baroness Young and Officials at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In addition to these formal discussions, a number of other meetings have been arranged with financial institutions and other commercial concerns to discuss investment in the BVI and related matters.

In Rome, the two will attend the Third International Conference of Banking Supervisors organised by the Bank of Italy. This conference lasts for two days.

Subsequently, Mr. Romney and Mr. Bain will travel to Toronto where they are scheduled to attend a meeting of the Board of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation of which the British Virgin Islands is a member in its own right. The two have been invited by the British Chancellor of Exchequer to attend the annual meeting of Commonwealth Finance Ministers as part of the UK delegation and Chief Minister, C.B. Romney, will deliver an address at this meeting.

Deputy Chief Minister, Hon. W. Wheatley, and Deputy Financial Secretary, Robert Mathavious, have been appointed by His Excellency the Governor to deputise in the absence of Chief Minister and Financial Secretary respectively, during their absence from the Territory for a period of two and a half weeks.

SOCIALISTS PROPOSE EMERGENCY ECONOMIC PROGRAM

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Sep 84 p C3

[Text] The socialist bloc yesterday proposed an Emergency Economic Program, pointing out that the major problems in the economy are "external strangulation" and "limited purchasing power."

The socialists also spoke of the need to set up a domestic recovery plan that includes a minimum wage readjustment; an increase in PEM [Minimum Employment Plan] and POJH [Employment Plan for Heads of Household] compensation to 10,000 pesos; a 20 percent readjustment in salaries of government employees; an increase of 500 pesos in the family allotment; a low-cost housing program; and a subsidized assortment of essential goods.

Attending the meeting at which the document was discussed were Ricardo Lagos, Pedro Felipe Ramirez, Gonzalo Martner, Jaime Estevez, and Guillermo del Valle.

They explained that this program could be financed by increasing the income and inheritance tax to its 1970 levels, and by raising the treasury deficit by 2.5 percent of the PGB [Gross Geographic Product]. Each of these measures should provide approximately 51.2 billion pesos.

In addition, they called for a cut in military spending by a minimum of 24 billion pesos.

In that way, they said, it would be possible to finance the following immediate measures, whose total cost would be 126 billion pesos: minimum wage readjustment: 10 billion a month; readjustment in the PEM and POJH salaries at an average cost of 10 billion pesos a month, and the inclusion of these workers in the social security system; an immediate increase in the family

allotment, raising it to 500 pesos a month per person covered; an immediate 20 percent readjustment in the salaries paid government employees, with a revision of the salary scale, cutting higher salaries, and giving special attention to those paid the least.

To alleviate the external strangulation problem, the socialists proposed a broad-based renegotiation of the debt, an investigation of deposits made abroad by economic groups, and a rational and differential program to control imports and promote exports.

They noted that these measures, if adopted, could bring about a 7.5 percent increase in the PGB, "provided that they are applied within a context of immediate democratization, by a government that has the requisite internal and external support."

Devaluation

The report notes that "devaluation, an increase in tariffs, and postponement of the tax reform, are primarily measures designed to please creditor banks and the International Monetary Fund, by bringing about a new contraction in foreign currency spending and keeping the government budget financed, while we are facing a rapid deterioration in Chile's internal and external accounts."

"It is true," concedes the report, "that the decline in the price of copper and the high level of foreign interest rates can not be controlled internally by Chile, but it is no less true that the military government has shown itself to be absolutely incapable of obtaining external financing and renegotiating the repayment terms for our foreign debt, in order to get better conditions for Chile."

Ricardo Lagos emphatically pointed out that this proposal offers Chile an economic alternative. He said that the proposal is addressed to public opinion and to the rest of the opposition. He added that the money paid to the banks providing financing has been much greater than the allowance the government had set aside for that purpose.

As the report indicates, this economic alternative requires a political commitment to promote above all else the purchasing power of lower-income groups and a productive recovery of the economy.

"There will be no recovery until we face up to the problem of jobs and salaries. That is a moral imperative, given our

dramatic levels of poverty. This poverty has been made much worse by the latest measures adopted, but it is also an economic prerequisite for revitalizing the domestic market, and thereby stimulating production, improving business profits, and spurring investment," the report maintains.

7679

CSO: 3348/21

BRIEFS

JANUARY-JUNE ECONOMIC GROWTH--According to the latest figures released by the National Accounts Department of the Central Bank, the gross domestic product increased by more than 6.5 percent from January to June as compared to the same period in 1983. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 23 Aug 84 p B 1 PY]

CODELCO EARNINGS, MINERAL PRODUCTION--On 24 August, Mines Minister Samuel Lira reported that during the first half of 1984, CODELCO (Copper Corporation) earned \$816 million from copper exports and that its profits amounted to \$200 million against \$147 million during the same period in 1983. During the first half of 1983, copper exports amounted to \$906 million. Production of molybdenum concentrates reached 8,500 tons during the first half of this year, a 32-percent increase from the same period last year. During the first half of this year, gold production decreased by 8.7 percent, silver, coal, and natural gas production increased by 3, 11, and 5 percent respectively over the same period last year. [Summary] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 25 Aug 84 p A 1, A 12 PY]

CHRISTENING OF NEW SUBMARINE--Santiago, 20 Sep (AFP)--It was officially reported in Santiago today that the Chilean Navy has taken delivery in the FRG of a 1,185-ton submarine it has ordered from the Kiel shipyards. The conventional-type submarine, which has eight torpedo tubes and is capable of navigating at 22 knots (40.7 km per hour) below the water surface, has been christened "Simpson." [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in Spanish 1330 GMT 20 Sep 84 PY]

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INCREASE--According to the National Statistics Institute, Chile's industrial production during the period January-July 1984 increased by 11 percent. [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Sep 84 PY]

CHILEAN-JAPANESE BUSINESS MEETING--During the 6th meeting of the Chilean-Japanese Business Committee that has just ended in Santiago, it was learned that large Japanese consortiums are willing to export and promote Chilean products to Southern Asian countries. [Summary] [Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Sep 84 PY]

MIR LEADER REQUESTS SUPPORT--Andres Pascal Allende, secretary-general of Chile's Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) has made a call to form the Miguel Enriquez Rebellious Chilean Youth Organization in Havana. Enriquez was the founder of the MIR. The call was made at a meeting held on the 10th anniversary of Miguel Enriquez' death during combat. Pascal Allende said this anniversary is being observed as the anti-dictatorial struggle in Chile increases, and he explained how Miguel Enriquez' example is manifested through the Chilean people's attitude. He said that the strategy of Chile's reactionary sector is based on repressing the people's movement, and on suffocating opposition forces in order to maintain a regime of exploitation. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 6 Oct 84]

OILFIELD BEGINS PRODUCTION--A new oilfield has begun production in the Magellan area, the ENAP [National Petroleum Enterprise] has informed EL MERCURIO. This is the Pejerrey field, which is joining five that are already in production: Ostion, Spiteful, Spiteful Norte, Posesion, Daniel Este-Dungenes, plus the new one. This announcement was received with great satisfaction in the southern area. The new field is beginning to deliver crude through the Pejerrey no 1 platform. The volume has not yet been reported, "since the wells' flow is being regularized. At this time there are five wells operating of a total of 12 that are to be placed in production," reported an ENAP source. This platform is the 21st in the waters of the Strait of Magellan, and the third this year. The total number scheduled for this year is four, said the spokesperson. The fourth platform for 1984 will be the Daniel Este-Dungenes no 2. It will be drilled by the Nugget crew, which is now operating in the area. The new field began functioning under the plan called "advanced production." This means that as wells are being drilled, production can begin as soon as they are ready. The Pejerrey field is located south of the Poseidon field. [Text] [Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 24 Sep 84 pp C1, C4] 7679

CSO: 3348/21

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS STRIKE AMID 'INTIMIDATION' CHARGES

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 26 Sep 84 p 3

[Text]

ROSEAU, Dominica, Tuesday (CANA) — A strike over pay by employees of the British construction firm Rush and Tompkins intensified today amid allegations by the company that it was receiving reports on intimidation of non-unionised workers to join the picket lines.

Today more workers joined the indefinite strike action called by the Dominica Amalgamated Workers Union (DAWU) over a new wage settlement, bringing the number of workers who have laid down their tools to over 100. Unionists said more than 80 workers were off the job yesterday.

General secretary of the DAWU, Anthony Joseph, said the union was now awaiting the arrival here on Thursday of the regional manager of the company for further negotiations, but warned "we will remain out until a settlement is reached."

Company officials confirmed that area manager F.C. Hollman, based in the Bahamas, is due on Thursday. They accused the union of wanting to extract much more money than what is available for wage settlements under a multi-million dollar road rehabilitation project.

Rush and Tompkins have been contracted to reconstruct 36 kilometres of road, estimated to

cost EC\$13.1 million (one EC dollar—37 cents U.S) under the Dominica Government massive road rehabilitation programme.

The firm is behind schedule on the International Development Association (IDA)-Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)-financed project, due to end in December this year.

Today a senior official of the company S.J. Wolfrey, said it had been receiving reports that the union was "intimidating non-unionised workers to join the strike."

Mediation efforts by the Ministry of Labour broke down today with the union charging that the officials of the company resident here were not in a position to make any decisions.

Both the company and the union said that the negotiations which have been on going for the past six months came to a halt over the rate of pay for certain categories of workers.

The union said "only a difference of 50 to 100 cents divide the company and ourselves over the conclusions of the agreement with regards to some categories of workers."

Rush and Tompkins have been contracted to replace four old bridges and widen five existing ones.

BRIEFS

OPPOSITION ELECTION STRATEGY--ROSEAU, Tues., (Cana)--DOMINICA Labour Party (DLP) says it will continue talks with other Opposition parties to prepare a strategy to defeat the ruling Freedom Party (DFP) at the next general elections. DLP Leader and former Prime Minister Oliver Seraphine, told a news conference today that the labour movement was seeking to ensure that in every constituency the ruling party would face a candidate backed by the Opposition parties. Elections are due here next year, political sources say. Despite Seraphine's announcement, talks between the DLP and the United Dominica Labour Party (UDLP) of former Finance Minister, Michael Douglas have reached a stalemate. However, Seraphine said his party had no intention of opposing candidates of the UDLP, a splinter of the DLP, in the elections. The DLP also stated that a statement by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, that Cuba was engineering an Opposition takeover of the Government after the next elections, was an effort to divert the country's attention from its major economic and social woes. It added that the statement was without foundation. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Oct 84 p 5]

CSO: 3298/040

BLAIZE INTRODUCES 14 NNP ELECTION CANDIDATES

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 25 Sep 84 p 7

[Text]

ST. GEORGES, Grenada — Saying that Grenada had experienced dictatorial oppression and communist degradation in the last 12 years, Mr. Herbert Blaize launched the election campaign of the New National Party (NNP) by telling voters they have to decide whether they wished to return to the bad old days.

The NNP, a merger of three parties, was presenting its 15 candidates for the December 3 election to an audience of 1 000 people in the rural town of Grenville last night.

Mr. Blaize introduced the 14 other candidates one-by-one, each making a short statement.

Among them were Mr. George Brizan, an educator who earlier this year formed the National Democratic Party (NDP), and Mr. Francis Alexis, who in 1983 formed the Grenadian Democratic Movement (GDM) in exile. Those two parties merged earlier this month with the Grenada National Party (GNP), headed by Mr. Blaize since its inception three decades ago.

Other candidates include Mr. Ben Jones, a parliamentarian

with the GNP, and Jillman Thomas, an attorney and former law partner with Mr. Maurice Bishop, but was jailed for more than two years by Mr. Bishop after he participated in a newspaper published in defiance of Bishop's regime.

Mr. Blaize, a former chief minister, said that since 1972, Grenada declined from a country of respectability to one of disgrace and horror.

He said during that time, Grenada moved from dictatorial oppression under Sir Eric Gairy's right wing United Labour Party (GULP) to communistic degradation and disaster under Maurice Bishop, leader of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) which culminated in the bloody army coup last October.

"I know that Grenadians know their history because it has been embedded in them and they have lived that history," Mr. Blaize said. "They know what they've been through and they don't want it again, so I know when the time comes on December 3, Grenadians would do the right thing."

CSO: 3298/041

MBPM: RADIX CLAIMS U.S. SEEKS TO INFLUENCE ELECTION

Bridge-town BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 27 Sep 84 p 3

[Text]

ST. GEOORGES, Grenada, Wednesday (CANA) — The left-wing Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement (MBPM) yesterday accused the United States of seeking to influence the outcome of December's general election.

At a press conference MBPM leader Kendrick Radix said the publication of a speech allegedly made in 1982 by then Prime Minister Bishop outlining his strategy for establishing a Marxist-Leninist state, was intended to sow the seeds of confusion and to discredit some people.

Washington plans to publish the speech shortly according to news reports but it was leaked last week to reporters in the U.S. capital.

"The publication of this document is designed to have an effect of interference in the internal affairs of Grenada, and to see to it that their (American 'yes men' are elected into office,' Radix said.

Bishop led the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) from 1979 until he was killed by leftist opponents in a military coup last October. Six days later, the U.S. led an invasion of the island to oust the military regime.

Radix was Industrialisation Minister in the PRG and was a supporter of Bishop. He was a prime mover behind the formation of the MBPM which has pledged to continue the policies of the PRG.

Radix said he could not comment directly on the speech since he had not seen it and could not swear for its authenticity.

The MBPM said yesterday it was contesting all 15 constituencies in the December 3 election.

Meanwhile Radix and Louison, another former PRG minister launched a scathing attack on the recently established New National Party (NNP) a merger of three centrist parties headed by veteran politician Herbert Blaize.

They told reporters that the NNP contains 'elements' who in past years were never actively involved in the struggle of the Grenadian people but have always been subservient to the metropolitan interests.

Louison said that the only people who fought on a daily basis over the last 14 years for the cause of "the poor and working people in Grenada were those directly involved in the PRG."

BRIEFS

VOTER ID CARDS--St. Georges, Grenada, Saturday, (CANA)--HEAVILY armed personnel of the Caribbean peace-keeping force yesterday ensured that law and order were maintained as Grenada distributed identification cards to potential voters in December 3 General Elections. There had been complaints about misbehaviour at the distribution centres. Peace-keeping forces officials accompanied electoral office workers in the several rural constituencies where cards were being handed over. Just over 50,000 Grenadians on the final voters list are eligible to receive cards. Supervisor of Elections, Roy Chasteau, said he expected the handing out of cards in all 15 constituencies to be completed by next week. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 23 Sep 84 p 3]

INTIMIDATION OF INVESTORS--ST. GEORGE'S, Wed., (Cana)--THE Grenada interim Government has charged that there is an unidentified group threatening approved foreign investors with reprisals, if they do not accede to certain demands, including cash donations. The Government statement, broadcast over State-owned Radio Grenada, said the group was also insisting on the recruitment of workers through an unnamed agency. Government has called on potential investors to ignore these threats, and said it "views with grave concern such action at a time when it was doing everything possible to attract investors to Grenada, in order to create employment opportunities and earn much-needed foreign exchange. "Persons whose projects have been approved are asked to ignore the threats, which are not only illegal, but also unpatriotic", the statement added. Meanwhile informed sources said the interim Government had approved a new investors guide. The code states that the Government is fully committed to the principles of economic and social development of the island, through a cooperative effort involving the public, private and cooperative sectors. According to the code, the Government wants a "renewed emphasis" on the private sector in the economy. Under the previous left-wing regime, the investment code highlighted a mixed economy model of development, but with the state sector playing the predominant role. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Oct 84 p 5]

CSO: 3298/041

BRIEFS

SUGAR WORKERS STRIKE--GEORGETOWN, Guyana--An estimated 2 000 workers belonging to the opposition-backed Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU) took industrial action during the weekend to protest the unavailability of essential foodstuffs in two areas of Berbice County where they reside, the union said. GAWU, which represents 23 000 workers in the vital sugar industry, said the strike took place at Rose Hall and Albion. "Repeated representations were made by sugar workers through GAWU to get adequate food supplies in the Sugar Belt, but the authorities have been dragging their feet," GAWU said in a statement. It added that as a result of the "deteriorating food situation", there has been growing disenchantment among workers with the result that the state-owned Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO) "is showing poor production results". [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 25 Sep 84 p 7]

TEAM VISITING BLOC NATIONS--GEORGETOWN, Sun. (AP)--GUYANA'S first deputy Prime Minister and Vice President Hamilton Green, accompanied by Health Minister Dr. Richard Van West Charles, has left on a trip to Cuba, Bulgaria and East Germany, it was announced here. A top official of the country's bauxite industry is also a part of the mission, which is expected to result in agreements for the sale of Guyanese aluminium ore to East Germany and Bulgaria. Officials here have reported that Bulgaria has agreed to furnish Guyana with two powerful radio transmitters. This equipment, they say, will ensure radio coverage of Guyana's vast hinterland. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Oct 84 p 5]

BIOGAS TRAINING IN PRC--GEORGETOWN, Mon., (Cana)--THE Guyana Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (IAST) is sending a team to China to learn about various biogas technology, an IAST statement said. Two Chinese biogas experts are working with IAST to come up with an appropriate system for better management of the institute's biogas programme. Biogas is a fuel extracted from decaying matter. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Oct 84 p 5]

CSO: 3298/042

'ORGANIZED TERRORISM' SAID TO HAVE LINKS WITH DRUGS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Oct 84 p 5

[Text] KINGSTON, Tues., (Cana)--JAMAICA's Police Commissioner Joe Williams says a new spurt of killings here is linked to "organised terrorism" that has connection with drugs.

Williams addressed inspectors on Monday, in between discussions with National Security Minister Winston Spaulding, and the Army High Command, following Sunday's gun slaying of a policeman in eastern Kingston by a 15-year-old schoolboy.

Last night, Spaulding said the circumstances of the murder of acting Cpl. Herman Williams "indicate a very serious threat" to the country, and he promised that the police and Military Command were taking definite steps to deal with the "terrorists," who allegedly operate from the Wareika Hills that overlook eastern Kingston.

According to the police, the off-duty policeman was shot outside a bar frequented by other policemen.

His teenaged attacker was later slain by a police patrol, but before he died he reportedly revealed that he had been given the gun by two criminals who operate from the Wareika Hills and told to go to the bar and kill any policeman he saw.

The schoolboy was threatened with his and his family's lives, the police said.

Williams was the 15th policeman to die violently this year, and the second in three days.

Noting the recent spate of killings here, Commissioner Williams said: "The pattern which is clearly emerging is that these killings are linked with organised terrorism, which included strong-armed elements of the drug trade, certain terrorist connections, and ideological drug linkage."

No Specifics

The Police Commissioner did not amplify the point.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga said last weekend that police intelligence had uncovered a plot to assassinate him by drug dealers, who were recently assessed at more than \$100 million for income tax. Mr. Seaga gave no specifics and no arrests have been made.

National Security Minister Spaulding said the "terrorists," who operate from the Wareika Hills, had been linked with other violent crimes in various sections of the island.

"From the abundance of information in the hands of the security forces, some of these men are specially-trained and highly-motivated persons, who constitute a special threat to the security of the country," Spaulding said.

He called on the "society and its key institutions" to deal with the problem.

CSO: 3298/043

PRI DECIDES TO REPEAT YUCATAN CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCESS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Sep 84 pp 4-A, 22-A, 23-A, 26-A

[From "Political Fronts" column, by Guillermo C. Zetina]

[Text] The National Executive Committee (CEN) of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) decided last night to repeat the process of consulting rank and file members to select candidates for mayor in the Yucatan, in order to guarantee the participation of the majority. It explained that if there were any irregularities in the process last Sunday, "they were caused by irresponsible people, not the party."

PRI leaders in Yucatan yesterday called for a conciliation of interests and a search for solutions to the disagreement expressed by PRI groups after the direct consultations took place. Beginning Sunday night and extending into yesterday morning, groups from that party from Tixkokob, Tekanto and Yobain, Dzidzantun, Tekivt, Tekal de Venegas, Kinchil, Mama, Celestun and Sudzal expressed their discontent because their candidates were not favored. They stated that people whose names were not on the roll were not allowed to vote.

The process will be repeated in some cases. The PRI general delegate, Florencio Salazar, stated that "the direct consultation of the active rank and file members represents an undeniable advance, despite the flaws that may be seen in it. . . PRI prefers to run the risks of democracy rather than those of authoritarianism. . . PRI's position is that no effort or risk is useless when it comes to eliminating vices that no longer have a place in modern Mexico."

One Thousand Dissidents

Meanwhile, in Merida, correspondent Evilacio Pereyra reports that more than 1,000 people from at least 10 different municipalities of this state gathered at the Casa del Pueblo, in the PRI offices, to protest the political process that took place last Sunday.

The chairman of the committee, Dulce Maria Sauri de Sierra, and PRI General Delegate Florencio Salazar Martinez at 0800 hours began meeting with the committees headed by the losing precandidates to explain to them the risks of democracy and to ask them to be patient, since the PRI internal election

process in which they lost was clean. They told the complainants that as good candidates and PRI members, they should join the ranks to help win the elections of next 25 November.

The losers from Tenach were the most numerous; in that place candidates are influenced--by violent means, even--by political boss Melchor Sozaya Raz (he has been a local deputy four times, and plans to return to the state congress once again, even though he is blind).

Also present were the losing candidates from Tixkokb, Hunucma, Tepakan Cacalchen, Celestun, Kantunil and Motul.

There were also protests from other, smaller municipalities. The most agitated protesters shouted out that the PRI internal elections should be nullified.

The boss of Tehah, Tekax, Juan Buenfil Gongora, did not bring his people to protest even though his candidate, Maximo Yang Cocom, lost. He is announcing, however, as he did 3 years ago, that he will not allow Fernando Torres Romero to take office as mayor of that city. Torres Romero won the PRI internal elections Sunday.

Some of Sauri's aides were overheard by our correspondent to urge her to call the police, fearful because "these people," they said, "could turn aggressive."

The federal deputy, upon hearing this suggestion, retorted in disgust that she was not about to ask for the police to come in, that she hoped this entire problem with PRI "can be solved within the family, as PRI members and as civilized Yucatecos."

In Motul, Yucatan, where Felipe Carrillo Puerto was born, the PRI internal elections were rather exceptional: Leticia Aviles de Cervantes, daughter of current Municipal President Roque Aviles, was elected to be candidate for that office. Roque Aviles won that office 3 years ago on the ticket of the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM), running against PRI. Aviles acclaimed his daughter among the heroes of independence last 15 September, and also displayed a picture of his illustrious "heir" between those of Hidalgo and Morelos.

This is the first case of a mayor of a major town--Motul has 50,000 inhabitants and is the heart of the sisal district--bequeathing the office to his daughter, and of the post going from one party to another, since 3 years ago he betrayed PRI, and now PRI is backing his daughter. Aviles' secret is that he distributes cooked meat among the people, as he has a lot of livestock.

8926

CSO: 3248/26

CORDERA, OTHERS GIVE REASONS FOR LEAVING PSUM COMMISSION

Mexico City ASI ES in Spanish No 118, 31 Aug 84 p 16

[Letter addressed to Unified Socialist Party of Mexico Central Committee by Rolando Cordera Campos, Adolfo Sanchez Rebolledo, Pablo Pascual Moncayo, and Arturo Whaley Martinez, Mexico, D.F., 20 August 1984]

[Text] Comrades:

In the last few months our party has undergone a difficult situation. Its unity, one of its basic tenets, has been called into question. For our part, we have made every effort to seek ways to preserve the atmosphere and the necessary statutory channels in what we still perceive to be a process of coming together. Not without difficulty, the Political Commission and the Central Committee have both striven to provide solutions to prevent the polarization that is now eroding the unity pact.

Until 2 days ago it could be said that an effort was being made to reconcile the differences within our party and to move through the proper legal and political channels. Even the way the National Organization Conference was being carried out seemed to indicate that this unifying effort was being reinforced. At the last moment, however, and in a surprising and abrupt manner, the Conference decided without proper authorization (we repeat: without proper authorization) to sanction the four federal deputies who have so far withheld income that, according to the bylaws, should go to the party.

In this way the internal legitimacy of our organization was violated. In ignoring the provisions of the bylaws to apply sanctions, in assuming powers it did not have, in carrying out a summary judgment, the Conference in effect suppressed the guarantees that our bylaws provide for each member.

The violation of statutory norms also erodes the political legitimacy of our unifying process, because a fundamental part of the agreements that paved the way toward unification was the commitment to respect the regulations that we have imposed on ourselves by common agreement. For this reason, flouting our legal regulations can only be understood as a political affront to those of us who have repeatedly stressed our commitment to the unifying process that is taking place within the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM).

As if that were not enough, the National Organization Conference ordered the Political Commission to apply the sanctions it had illegally imposed. As members of the Political Commission, we cannot be a party to agreements that violate the legitimacy of our organization. For this reason, in the hopes that legality will be restored in our party, we are tendering our resignations from the Political Commission to the collegiate body that elected us.

We hope, because our commitment to unity is still strong, that the Central Committee will intervene in the matter and restore normalcy within the ranks of our organization. No effort, no initiative would be excessive.

For democracy and socialism.

8926

CSO: 3248/26

PAPER CALLS ON OECS TO ASK OSBORNE TO STEP DOWN

Plymouth THE MONTSERRAT TIMES in English 24 Aug 84 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text]

If member governments of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (O.E.C.S.) wish to retain the credibility and moral authority which they gained following the U.S.-led invasion of terror-ridden Grenada last year, they must ask the Honourable John Osborne to vacate the Chairmanship of the august body.

What did the generals of Grenada do to invite the military action which put the O.E.C.S. on the map? They turned their backs on constitutionality; they turned their faces towards the Eastern bloc nations; and they turned their guns on the good people of their country.

Mr. John Osborne's regime boasts friendship with the United States but it deliberately gave refuge to a fugitive from justice in the United States. Since we are still a British colony, the guns are under the control of a British governor, but Mr. John Osborne's Public Relations Officer and chief government spokesman, Vernon Jeffers, wants to "stamp out and put to rest" those who criticize the government.

Mr. Osborne himself dived into the waters of Little Bay and had his credibility washed away. He swore to affidavits with scant regard for the fact that what he swore to differs sharply to anything his government really agreed to.

**CAN MR. OSBORNE STEP INTO
Ms. EUGENIA CHARLES' SHOE?**

Mr. Osborne lied to his own Legislature on July 16, 1984, about his involvement in the Little Bay litigation.

In his reply to criticisms by Montserrat's Christian Council, Mr. Osborne forced clergymen to breathe a sigh of relief when they realized that the judgement meted out to Ananias and Saphira would be spared the political head of the Montserrat government.

Can anyone imagine the agony of leaders like Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica and John Compton, Prime Minister of St. Lucia when they read the awful reports of Mr. Osborne's political misdemeanors? How are they reacting to the fact that the current chairman of the O.E.C.S. is a man who has been placed on six months probation by his own party? If trouble breaks out in a member state, can a discredited Chairman like the Hon. John Osborne do what Ms. Charles did during the Grenada crisis? Can he who angered American businessmen and Attorneys by a "flip flop" on Little Bay and extended a V.I.P. welcome to fugitive financier J. David Dominelli call for joint military action in pursuit of justice and democracy in another island?

Finally, can Mr. Osborne who cannot host an open Press Conference in little Montserrat appear at a Press Conference with the President of the United States?

When the O.E.C.S. considers the implications Mr. Osborne may have to go.

OSBORNE REPLIES IN DETAIL TO CHRISTIAN COUNCIL CRITICISM

Plymouth THE MONTserrat TIMES in English 24 Aug 84 pp 1, 3, 4

[Text]

In response to the expressed wishes of the Hon. Chief Minister, the Times publishes below the full text of his Radio broadcast in response to criticisms by the Montserrat Christian Council:

When I last spoke to you through this Radio Station, it was to explain to you how the negotiation for the development of Little Bay were progressing and also to put the Little Bay matter in perspective, so that would not be confused by the rumors which were circulating at that time. I was very glad that I did so, because for several days after I spoke, people kept meeting me and expressing their satisfaction, that I took time out to clear up the issue.

This time, I wish to speak to you on a Position Statement made by the Montserrat Christian Council, and published on front page of this weekend's edition of the Montserrat Times Newspaper.

The statement falls naturally into two parts. In the first part, the Christian Council makes four points. In the second part, the drew

certain conclusions from those four points. I am truly puzzled by this statement of the Christian Council, and I am going to endeavour to address the matters raised, in a systematic manner.

Let me begin by looking at point No. 1. It reads:

"The failure to keep a promise made to the public in general on the political platform and in particular to the Montserrat Christian Council by letter dated 18th. December 1980, that this Government would not permit the establishment of Casino gambling in the Country without first consulting the people of Montserrat. Contrary to this commitment the Government has actively pursued the establishment of a Casino as part of the Little Bay Development Project."

It is a fact that I promised the people of Montserrat generally, and the Christian Council in particular, that Government would not permit the establishment of Casino gambling in the country without first consulting the people. That is perfectly correct. I made those promises between 1978 and 1982. During that time we found that no developer wanted to get into the Little Bay Development if a Casino was not involved.

Whenever we spoke to developers about Little Bay, and indicated that we did not wish to have a Casino, they immediately ran cold on the subject.

So we thought about the matter, and we placed it on our campaign platform in 1983. In that election campaign we spoke about the Little Bay Hotel/Casino Development project. We explained that if potential investors in the Little Bay project insisted on having a Casino as part of the hotel/marina complex, and if it could be proved that the viability of the project depended on the inclusion of a Casino, Government would have little alternative but to allow it. In this way we fulfilled our promise of consultation.

And having done so, our PLM party was duly elected by the people for a second term in office.

Since our re-election in February 1983, we have been able to include the Casino in our negotiations with developers. Now ladies and gentlemen, where have we gone wrong in that matter? How can the Christian Council, or any one else, say that we have not consulted the people when it rang forth from our platform in 1983? I think that everyone can agree with me that there is no substance whatsoever to that first point.

Let me go on to their second point:

"It is clear that the Chief Minister in a sworn statement said that the Executive Council was to ratify an agreement pertaining to the Casino project with a particular Company on 4th October 1983. There was no such meeting scheduled or subsequently held."

Now ladies and gentlemen, let me explain what happened. Government was negotiating with Sewon Development Company to Develop Little Bay. Sewon's first deadline to submit proposals was June 1983. They came back and requested an

extension, and we gave them till 1st August. Then they requested a further extension, and we gave them until 1st September. By that time we began to have doubts as to whether or not Sewon was really able to 'deliver the goods'. I therefore decided not to wait on them beyond the end of September 1983, and so we were free to consider any other proposals from the 4th of October 1983. I say the 4th because that is the first Tuesday of October, and Executive Council meets regularly on Tuesdays.

The way the Christian Council's statement is written gives the impression that a meeting had to be called specially to talk about the Little Bay Project.

That is not necessarily so. What happens is that we meet regularly on Tuesdays, and we discuss all matters of state which need to be discussed, including Little Bay if there is something to be discussed on it.

As it happened we never ratified the agreement on the 4th of October, because we were informed of another investor who was interested, and who seemed to be better able to manage the project. So we wrote to the one we were to consider on the 4th of October, and told him why we were not finalising negotiations with him. We wrote that letter on the 28th of September 1983.

Why is the Christian Council saying that no meeting was ever scheduled or subsequently held? We were scheduled to consider it on the 4th October, but we did not find it necessary to consider it in light of developments. So we wrote to the man, and told him so.

Let me ask again ladies and gentlemen, where have we gone wrong in that matter? So for point No. 2, I arrive at the same conclusion as I did for point No. 1, and that is, that there is not substance in what the Christian Council has said.

I wish to go on to their fourth point, and return later to their third point.

The errors which the Christian Council has made in their fourth point, are errors which can be made by people who do not have experience in Government. This fourth point shows a lack of understanding of the constitutional process, and I will try my best to clear it up.

Two issues are being raised. The first one is that I signed documents in the absence of the Attorney General. Let me deal with that right away.

I, as Chief Minister, am in no way compelled to have the Attorney General with me when I am signing documents. The Attorney General is the Government's Legal Adviser, and if, any Government official, is doing anything which needs legal advice, the Attorney General is to be consulted. A Government official is expected to assess what he is doing carefully and determine if legal advice is necessary. When I signed the agreement which I am now being harassed about, I assessed it carefully, and made very certain that no legal advice was necessary at the time.

I was sure then, and I am still sure now, because the document in question was subject to ratification by Executive Council. The document was not legally binding until Executive Council here in Montserrat approved it and here is the big point ... The Attorney General is a member of Executive Council. So in order for the document to be legally binding the Attorney General, along with the other members of the Executive Council has to approve it. Since I knew that, it meant that I could sign it without fear. And further I was accompanied by the Honourable Financial Secretary, who ably assisted in the negotiations and also signed as a witness to the agreement. That is the first issue of their fourth point.

The second issue is this: The Christian Council claims that I signed documents which involve the use of Crown lands and that such is a matter solely for the Governor, and is completely outside the bounds of the Chief Minister.

Once again let me explain. When Crown lands are being sold or leased, the documents are signed by the Governor. So to someone who is not informed of the constitutional process, it appears that it is the Governor who is solely responsible. However, that is not the case. The responsibility rests with the Governor-in-Council. What that means is that the Governor sign the documents, but only after being advised by the Executive Council of which he is the President.

Now the agreement in question had to be approved by Executive Council. So if we had discussed the matter in Executive Council, and the Council had agreed, then the Governor, as the President, would have been agreeing, and would have signed the real lease documents. Neither were they lease documents. It wasn't time for that as yet. What I signed was a simple agreement which had to be agreed to by Executive Council before it could be legally binding. Once again ladies and gentlemen, there is no substance in that point.

Now as I said, I will deal with their third point last. That point is:

"The Montserrat Christian Council is of the opinion that the use of documents that include a seal, logo and letterhead purporting to be that of the Queen's Representative was intended to convey the impression of the highest official sanction of the contents of the documents. In our judgement this is an act of deliberate deception and is both dishonourable and reprehensible."

I can hardly believe this. The other three points seemed as if they arose because the Christian Council misunder-

stood and misinterpreted the facts. But this point leaves me virtually speechless. I came here to the radio last month and admitted to you all, that there was an error in the letterheads, and I told you that when I discovered it, we stopped using them. I also said that if it is necessary to apologise for not spotting the error earlier, I am prepared to do so. And now a Christian Council A Christian Council, says that my action was deliberate. A Christian Council made up of the leaders of Christ's Church A Christian Council who must know that such kinds of judgement belong to God alone. Ladies and gentlemen, I can hardly believe that this has happened.

The Christian Council made four points. Three of them appeared to be coming out of a lack of understanding of the facts, and the fourth point is a judgement.

I have taken the ones which arose from a lack of understanding and explained the facts to you all. In each case as you listened, I am sure that you understood more clearly, and realized that there is no substance in any of those three points. In their fourth point they made a judgement, and it is the type of judgement that no one calling himself Christian should make.

Now ladies and gentlemen, the facts I explained to you in this speech are clear and easy to understand. And having heard them, you realize that there is no substance at all to the Christian Council statement.

What baffles me is this? Why didn't the Christian Council come to my office and sit and discuss those issues with me, so that I could have given them the answers as I am explaining them to you now. Don't these Reverend gentlemen know that a silling has two sides? How can they listen to one side and condemn the other side without hearing what the other side has to say!

However, I am compelled to state that the members of Christian Council ought to have conducted a more thorough and careful investigation of their allegations, having regard to the serious nature of these allegations, and to their political implications.

It has been suggested to me that the Christian Council is being manipulated for political purposes. However, I cannot believe that a body made up of Ministers of Religion would allow themselves to be used in this manner.

Having made their four statements, the Christian Council went on to draw conclusions from those statements. Basically there are two conclusions

- (1) that the other Ministers of Government have no moral integrity
- (2) that the Chief Minister and Ministers should resign

Let me say clearly now, the if those four points raised were factual and accurate, the Christian Council's conclusions would be in order. However, since none of the four points is factual, it follows that neither conclusions is in order.

I have done my duty to the general public by replying in detail to the Christian Council. All except two of the individuals and organizations to whom the Christian Council statement was copied are in Montserrat, and will hear this Broadcast. I am sending two copies of this reply to the Christian Council with the request that they forward them to the two persons overseas to whom their statement was sent. I also hope that the Montserrat Times Newspaper will be fair enough to print my reply in the same prominent place that it carried the statement.

In conclusion let me say that, I do not wish to enter into any prolonged argument with the Christian Council over this matter. I would have preferred if

the Christian Council had held discussions with me rather than issue such an uninformed and misleading statement. And I hope that in future, individuals and organizations would take time out to be informed about issues before taking them to the Public

I thank you all for listening

CSO: 3298/044

BRAMBLE HAILED ON RETURN FROM U.S., CHARGES POLITICAL PLOT

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 16 Sep 84 p 13

[Text]

PLYMOUTH, Montserrat — Former Chief Minister P. Austin Bramble said Friday his arrest in Florida on burglary charges was a result of a "plot" hatched in Montserrat.

Bramble and his brother Howell arrived here from Miami shortly before 6 p.m. (EDT) to the cheers of some 1 000 supporters, who rushed the airstrip as the brothers descended from a chartered twin-engine plane.

The Brambles were arrested last week in West Palm Beach, Florida, and charged with attempting to burglarise a court reporter's office in order to obtain videotapes involving a government-party lawyer. The government-party official, Mr. David Kelsick, had given a deposition concerning a legal battle between two American developers who are fighting over the rights to Montserrat's Little Bay Resort project.

The dispute has been politically embarrassing to Chief Minister John Osborne, who has already weathered one no-confidence vote in parliament over the matter.

The Brambles were freed after a judge in West Palm Beach reduced their bail from \$100 000 to \$2 000 each. A date has not been set for trial.

The opposition leader, wearing a cream suit and lavender and maroon striped shirt, gave a two-fisted salute to the cheering crowd as he stepped down from the plane. His followers carried placards reading, "You have done no wrong," and "God has brought you back to us."

The former chief minister was lifted onto the shoulders of supporters and carried to a waiting car fitted out with a loudspeaker, where he made a brief speech to the crowd.

"Let me say straight without any reservation the desperate people here in Montserrat who planned that incident are capable of stopping at nothing.

"Let me be quite honest with you, in my view if they had any inkling that arrangements which they made might have fallen through in any way, they would have arranged to have us killed, and it is the intervention of Almighty God who saved our lives," Mr. Bramble said.

He said, "We did not burgle anybody. We did not break into any place. We did not steal anything. We did not ask anybody to steal anything."

Mr. Bramble said that his attorney had cautioned him not to talk about the case. But he said he and his brother were victims of a "plot" hatched in Montserrat.

And he said despite what was reported in the American Press, neither he nor his brother "attempted to break into any place, attempted to steal anything or paid anyone to steal anything".

In an interview earlier Friday, Mr. Osborne denied any involvement in the Brambles' arrest. He said he was in New York when he learned of the matter.

"It was their own greed and hunger for power that got them into the situation," the chief minister said.

Mr. Bramble told the crowd at the airport he would reveal the details of the alleged plot at a public meeting tomorrow night at the war memorial.

Members of the opposition have charged that the Brambles were framed by Americans friendly to the Osborne government.

Governor David Dale, the British Government representative who is the head of the largely self-governing colony's executive council, declined to comment on the matter. He said only that he had been in touch with the British embassy in Washington to ensure that the Brambles received due legal process and representation in the United States.

SIMMONDS HAILED AS SAVIOR AS INDEPENDENCE IS MARKED

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 15 Sep 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE DEMOCRAT wishes on the eve of the 1st Anniversary of the Independence of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis to pay special tribute to the wisdom and far-sightedness, the compassion and the humanity, the likeability and the leadership of our first Prime Minister, the Honourable Dr. Kennedy Alphonse Simmonds. It is our unshakeable belief that the Prime Ministership of the Honourable Dr. Simmonds is proving to be the salvation of our twin-island Nation, and a blessing of momentous significance.

It is our firm opinion that when on 19th February, 1980, Dr. Simmonds assumed the leadership of this country, we were heading for a bloodbath in St. Kitts and Nevis. The British Government, committed to the inevitable advent of Independence, had approved an arrangement whereby the island of Nevis would be given the opportunity to hold a Referendum (or rather, ANOTHER Referendum) on the question of the desire of the people of Nevis for Independence under the yoke of a dis-trusted Labour regime. But this would only take place after Independence in the said circumstances would have become a "fait accompli", that is to say, an established fact. In addition, it is understood that for the purpose of this Referendum, 18 months after such an event, a Nevisian would be understood to include a Kittitian, if that Kittitian had even one parent from Nevis,

a situation which would automatically involve a very large number of Kittians indeed.

During this period, the Labour Government maintained an Army Camp just outside of Charlestown, for the express purpose of intimidating and terrorising the entire population of Nevis, a provocative and explosive situation which was almost certain to end in untold violence. Secession seemed the only way out for the people caught in this living nightmare. Communication broke down completely between the leaders of Nevis and the Government in St. Kitts.

Into this crisis stepped the Honourable Dr. Kennedy Alphonse Simmonds. Instantaneously, miraculously, a total transformation happened. The basic and underlying bond between our Sister Islands became personified through the formation of the historic Coalition Government of PAM and NRP. Mutual respect and understanding replaced distrust and antagonism between the leaders of both islands. A master-plan for the overall development of both islands together superseded Labour's infamous policy of "Bones In Rice And Pepper In Soup".

The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis is the culmination of the success of the flexible yet well-grounded working relationship between the leaders of St. Kitts and of Nevis. Bradshaw failed to achieve this. Lee Moore failed to achieve this. The Honourable Dr. Kennedy Simmonds made it look like "a piece of cake".

Today we at THE DEMOCRAT join together with the other grateful citizens of this 1-year-old Nation to express our appreciation to the Honourable Dr. Kennedy Simmonds. WE SAY THANKS TO OUR FIRST PRIME MINISTER!!!

BRIEFS

RISE IN TOURISM--Recently-released statistics from the Planning Unit paint a very positive picture of the past season. The statistics, which document visitor arrivals to the State during the first quarter of 1984, show that a total of 11,224 visitors came to St. Kitts and Nevis during that period, an increase of 30% over the 8,636 visitors who entered the State during the first quarter of 1983. Most of Nevis' visitors came from the United States; the United Kingdom provided the second largest number of tourists. On the whole, however, Nevis experienced a decrease of 7.9% over the 1983 total, with decreases being recorded in arrivals from most destinations. The English market has proven to be extremely rewarding to Nevis, however, for there was a 20.1% increase over the same period in 1983. Nevis' largest decrease was in visitors coming from OECS countries; Canadian visitors also decreased significantly. During the period being examined, Nevis received a total of 2,100 visitors. St. Kitts, conversely has shown an increase in arrivals from all destinations except from the "other countries" category. The increase in visitors from the United States was most dramatic (84.3%), with arrivals from Canada and OECS countries also increasing significantly. During the period being examined, a total of 9,124 visitors came to St. Kitts - a 43.5% increase over the same period in 1984. [Excerpt] Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 25 Aug 84 p 11]

SECURITY TRAINING--On Wednesday of this week, a group of United States Army Officers arrived at Golden Rock International Airport for the start of a U.S. Government sponsored security training programme as was reported in our Editorial of August 11th. The 18 member team will conduct a series of training sessions with the Special Services Unit (S.S.U.) This Unit is the security-oriented arm of the Police Force and the training will be directed towards the Peace-Keeping role of the Police. [Text] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 25 Aug 84 p 12]

CSO: 3298/045

MINISTER LOUIS GEORGE RESIGNS, DIVERGES FROM UWP

Castries CRUSADER in English 22 Sep 84 p 1

[Text]

THE Minister of State in the Education Ministry Louis George who represents Micoud North in the House of Assembly this week dropped his letter of resignation on the empty desk of Prime Minister John Compton who is away from the island in Washington.

The resignation of Minister George is the culmination of a long history of disagreement between Education Minister, Senator Magarita Alexander and her Minister of State. The resignation also reflects Minister George's growing disenchantment with the whole UWP party machinery and with the performance of the Government on the whole.

The Minister of State was supported at Party level by "The Young Turks" — a group of UWP Executive members who oppose the Old Guard in the Party. "The Young Turks" have repeatedly requested that Senator Alexander should be replaced by Minister Louis George and this issue was hotly debated on a number of

occasions in the Executive of the Party but the Senator has survived the challenge.

In recent months the row between the Minister and Minister of State, Louis George has intensified. Louis George claims that the Minister has insulted him many times and this has now become a regular feature of their relationship. Rumour had it that there was a Caricom Education Minister's Conference in St. Lucia last week and Mr. George did not even know of such a conference and made other arrangements. Last week's Executive meeting of the UWP again discussed the issue and it was felt by some party officials that some action would be taken shortly but this week's resignation of the Minister of State has abruptly ended such speculation.

THE word in Government circles is that Hon. Louis George will be given some sort of accommodation in the Prime Minister's office to avoid any further drastic action on his part.

CSO: 3298/047

LABOUR PARTY CALL FOR COPRA INVESTIGATION QUESTIONED

Jurisdictional Doubts

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 15 Sep 84 p 1

[Text]

THE Opposition St Lucia Labour Party [SLP] wants the Governor General Sir Allen Lewis to appoint a Commission of Inquiry into the operations of Copra Manufacturers Limited. [C.M.L.]

But there are doubts being expressed in legal circles here as to whether the Governor General had any such authority.

One prominent city lawyer told THE VOICE that only the Commercial laws of the country provided for investigation into the affairs of public commercial companies like Copra Manufacturers and even then, such an order has to be made by the High Court.

The SLP's call for an inquiry comes in the wake of allegations of unauthorised payments made by officials of CML. The SLP's letter to Sir Allen claimed that the alleged "unauthorised transactions" involved funds totalling "not less than \$1.2 million."

Chairman of CML, Agriculture Minister Ira d'Auvergne told the company's recent annual general meeting that the Company had done everything in its power to

investigate "allegations of financial inconsistencies." In fact, he said the CML Board had put the matter into the hands of Police in February 1983 and investigations were continuing.

The SLP's letter said "The Central Executive (of the SLP), after examining the reported statements of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Copra Manufacturers Limited and that of past Chairman Mr. William Edgecombe, agreed that in the spirit of democracy, an investigation be carried out to clarify the dilemma the public is faced with in respect of the unsavory situation...."

The letter asked Sir Allen to consider the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Ordinance, Chapter 5 of the St. Lucia Revised Ordinance 1957.

But THE VOICE was made to understand yesterday that this law does not apply to companies like CML. Part of Chapter 5 reads "It shall be lawful for the Governor, whenever he shall deem it advisable to issue a Commission, appointing one or more Commissioners or any quorum of them therein to enquire into the conduct and management of any

department of the public service, or of any public or local institution or the conduct of any public or local officer of the colony or any parish or district thereof, or into any matter in which an inquiry would, in the opinion of the Governor be for the public welfare. "

According to some sources, this law relates to the public service and not to public commercial companies. There was special machinery for investigations in concerns like CML. THE VOICE was told

Jamaican Debt

Castries THE VOICE in English 12 Sep 84 p 4

[Text] COPRA Manufacturers St. Lucia Limited (CML) and its subsidiary, CARICOM Marketing, are still owed 2.5 million dollars because of foreign exchange restrictions imposed by Jamaica, Chairman Ira d'Auvergne said.

He said the restrictions imposed by the Jamaica Central Bank were affecting payments for copra products including coconut oil, meal and laundry soap.

Addressing the company's annual general meeting d'Auvergne, who is also Agriculture Minister, said the problem had resulted in severe cash flow problems for the two companies.

In June, Jamaican importers owed CML five million dollars but this had since been halved following discussions with the Jamaica Government.

As a result of these difficulties operations at CARICOM Marketing were temporarily cut back from June

Despite the Jamaica problems the two companies increased their sales revenue by 18 per cent in 1983 to 16.5 million dollars. Of this amount 12.7 million was for export sales, d'Auvergne said.

d'Auvergne also reported that a second subsidiary, Carib Processors Ltd., was experiencing declining sales of its margarine and lard products because of competition from non CARICOM products.

The sales figures of Carib Processors Ltd., a joint venture with Lever Brothers (West Indies) of Trinidad and Tobago, fell from 3.1 million dollars to 2.2 million last year.

The Agriculture Minister also reported disappointing news for St. Lucia's copra production. Production, which had climbed back to 4,700 long tons last year following the low of 2,400 tons after Hurricane Allen in 1980, this year declined again with annual production estimated at 3,600 tons.

The shortfall resulted from widespread damage to coconuts caused by a mite.

CSO: 3298/047

GAIRY SEEN AS UNSETTLING INFLUENCE IN GRENADA

Castries THE WEEKEND VOICE in English 15 Sep 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE former Grenadian dictator Eric Gairy continues to be nothing but a menace to almost everyone.

The latest word on Gairy this week was that he had sent cables to some world leaders including President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher — and heads of influential international organisations like the OAS and UN in connection with "mammoth" demonstrations being planned by his party to protest "the actions" of the Interim Government in St. George's.

Gairy seems bent on creating as much confusion in Grenada as he possibly can between now and election day. It may be a ploy of his as well. According to his Grenada United Labour Party, "the people of Grenada are tired of and strongly resent "imposed rule" of the Nicholas Brathwaite Interim Government, and this is what the planned protest will be about.

Further, and according to Gairy, the "people of Grenada" were calling for an election date, immediate general elections and for the opening of the country's international airport after polling day by the newly elected Government rather than next month as the Interim Government plans.

The stance of Gairy and his GULP seems, to us, to be diametrically opposed to what the people of Grenada really want. Although it is true that political parties in the island are gearing for the polls, it is still a popular view in the country that the elections should be postponed. So what "people" is Gairy really hooting for?

And contrary to what Gairy is telling the world, we have heard of no popular call in the Spice Isle for immediate elections, nor any popular protest against the rule of the interim government, nor over when the airport should be opened.

There is no doubt that Gairy still commands strong support in Grenada but whether the people of that unfortunate island are solidly behind him will be one of the issues to be determined in the forthcoming poll. Until then, he should desist from creating unnecessary confusion.

Unlike in Gairy's time, the Interim Government is determined to have the election machinery firmly in order before its announces an election date and it is no surprise that the former Prime Minister cannot relate to that. High on the list of the administration's priorities, according to reports from St. George's is the distribution of 50,000 identification cards to prospective voters.

If Gairy is really interested in helping Grenada and its people return to democracy he should do like the other political leaders in the country and stop trying to whip up more frenzy after all the misfortune that Grenadians have recently endured.

WATER, SEWERAGE PLAN APPROVED; COMPTON VOICES CONCERN

Castries THE VOICE in English 12 Sep 84 p 5

[Text]

GOVERNMENT is moving towards the establishment of a Water and Sewerage Authority in the island.

Minister of Health, Housing and Labour, Clendon Mason piloting a bill for the creation of the Authority in Parliament last Friday, said it would make provision for a national policy on water and be responsible for carrying out the functions of water, including sewerage and sewerage disposal, and other connected purposes.

According to Mr. Mason the proposed Water and Sewerage Authority would carry out the functions of the now Central Water Authority and also promote water conservation.

When fully constituted the Authority would consist of a board of directors headed by a chairman to be appointed by the Prime Minister and four officers to be nominated by the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Communications, and Finance. The Chamber of Commerce would also have a representative on the body, Mr. Mason told the House of Assembly.

The bill obtained approval from the House but not before Prime Minister, John Compton blasted what he called unscrupulous politicians for condoning the destruction of forest reserves by some farmers.

He explained that it would be useless for government to

spend large sums of money on water provision if the natural resource - the forest - could not be protected. He said indiscriminate chopping and burning of the forest was very serious, especially in the Dennery Valley, and when the forest rangers tried to stop the culprits, politicians abused them.

The Prime Minister told the House that hundreds of thousands of dollars was being spent unblocking rivers and water courses because of the reckless cutting of trees which led to erosion of soil.

Warning that "serious measures" would be taken to protect forest reserves, Mr. Compton stressed that if this generation could not observe soil and water conservation then the next generation was bound to condemn it.

He said that lines would be drawn beyond which there would be "no retreat."

BRIEFS

UK BANANA COMPLAINTS--CASTRIES, St. Lucia, Tuesday, (CANA)--Retailers in the United Kingdom have again complained about the quality of bananas from St. Lucia and have indicated that they will not purchase any more until the situation improves. Officials here said that Geest Industries, which markets bananas from St. Lucia and the other Windward Islands has been complaining about the decline in quality of the fruit especially that shipped from St. Lucia. The situation was brought to a head with the receipt of a telex by the St. Lucia Banana Growers Association which said that ship ripes, scars, mechanical damage, the inclusion of rejectable hands in field packs have all contributed to a poor turn out of local fruit. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 26 Sep 84 p 3]

CSO: 3298/048

ROLE OF CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM COMMITTEE REVIEWED

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 21 Sep 84 p 1

[Text] A Committee has been established by Government on Legal and Constitutional Reforms. The five members are:

1. Sir Rupert John--Chairman, Parnel Campbell--Secretary, Henry Williams, Yvonne Francis--Gibson and George Thomas.

The Committee's terms of reference are to:

(a) make recommendations for the establishment of an Integrity Commission to monitor the financial gains of Members of Parliament.

(b) recommend in the context of the foregoing whether certain public or other officials should be subject to similar scrutiny;

(c) recommend what measures and sanctions may be introduced to preserve the integrity of office holders;

2. recommend measures that may prevent any Member of Parliament, whose candidacy at any election preceding his-her entry into Parliament has been sponsored by a Political Party, from remaining in Parliament after leaving or resigning from such party, bearing in mind the fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution;

3. make recommendations for legislation or constitutional changes necessary to provide equal rights for women, particularly with regard to citizenship;

4. examine the desirability of the creation of the office of Parliamentary Commissioner (Ombudsman) and make appropriate constitutional or other recommendations;

5. examine recommendations referred to this Committee by the Committee on Local Government;

6. examine any other constitutional reform deemed appropriate.

The Committee was introduced to Vincentians on a televised GIS Programme on Tuesday night 18th September. An appeal was made for participation by the

public through the submission of suggestions. In this connection Ms Yvonne Francis-Gibson made a special request to women.

She invited her sex to make use of the opportunity so long denied, but now being offered to them by the new government, to assume equality with men and be involved with them in the development of the nation.

The ruling New Democratic Party has expressed the view that there was need to make the country's constitution more relevant to the needs and aspirations of Vincentians.

The NDP had expressed doubts whether the first past the post or Westminster system now in use is the best method for St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It had noted that it had come under increasing criticism even in Britain where it originated.

The party has said there was need to examine other constitutional models such as existed in France, West Germany and the United States in order to arrive at a better constitution for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Constitutional and Legal Reforms Committee will therefore be looking closely at the 1979 Independence constitution of the state, and after studying various other models together with proposals from local groups, organisations and individuals, make recommendations for amending the constitution.

CSO: 3298/046

BLUEPRINT FOR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AG. CULTURAL REFORM

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 21 Sep 84 p 10

[Article by "political activist" Julian (Bucky) Boyea: "The Task Before Us"]

[Excerpt] We in Saint Vincent and The Grenadines have witnessed 10 years (1974-1984) of gross mismanagement, inefficiency, frustration and corruption by the Saint Vincent Labour Party. Let us look at only a brief catalogue of our afflictions during the past 10 years. (1) Repressive legislation; (2) Phenomenal increase in the cost of living, (3) Unemployment, (4) Widespread corruption, (5) Severe taxation, (6) Water crisis, (7) Agricultural crisis, (8) Crisis in the Court of Justice, (9) Burden in the police service, (10) General breakdown in morale.

We have no illusions whatever that it will be a gigantic task to clear the mess created by Cato and the Labour Party. However, the job must be done. The longer the delay, the greater the physical destruction to our country and the psychological damage to our people.

Against this background, we now set our priorities. It must be clearly understood, however, that the entire Programme is interrelated. No single part of the programme can be dealt with in isolation. For example, our programme for youth is related to the programme for agriculture and education as well as the cultural and social programmes.

The programme for agriculture, on the other hand, is itself bound up with the programmes for Youth, Education, Industrialisation and Employment.

Our first task has already been achieved. We have removed the Saint Vincent Labour Party from Power.

The second task will be to restore the morale of the people. Nothing worthwhile can be achieved unless this is done. The hand of repression must be lifted and the cloud of victimisation and fear dispelled.

It must be made absolutely clear that justice, hard work, honesty, truth, dedication, courage, sacrifice and a readiness to admit error are the values that should be accepted in our national life.

I would now like to offer a few suggestions on the programme that should be implemented for Agriculture:--

(a) LAND REFORM involving

(1) bringing more land into cultivation, (2) a more equitable distribution, (3) the cultivation of food crops on a prescribed basis, (4) more intensive farming.

(B) A SUPPORT PROGRAMME OF MODERNISATION involving

(1) the use of scientific methods and machines, especially adapted for relatively small holdings; and (2) food processing on an extensive scale as the basis for the industrialisation of agriculture.

(C) MARKETING

The burden and anxiety of marketing must be taken off the shoulders of the agricultural producers who must be enabled to concentrate fully on the organisation of production.

(D) LAND EDUCATION

Education about the land is one of the most sadly neglected areas in our national life. So far the emphasis has been on industrial and clerical training.

A programme of Education for Agriculture comparable with that provided by the Technical College at Arnos Vale for Industry and Commerce should be provided.

An agricultural institute practically orientated with both day and evening classes should be set up in the rural areas. In this Institute farmers themselves with the necessary experience and expertise will be called upon to make their knowledge and experience available to others. The practical experience of our local farmers is often a much better guide than Foreign Text Books.

(E) STATE SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRIOUS FARMERS

This support should include a combination of any of the following:--

(1) Soil preparation, (2) Seeds and plants, (3) Irrigation, (4) Fertilisers, (5) Production subsidies, (6) Pest control, (7) Packaging and processing, (8) Crop protection by insurance against Fire, Hurricane and praedial larceny.

This will require a system of Registration of Farmers.

In conclusion I would like to remind the new Government that there must be a dramatic change in our attitude towards the land. People who live and work on the land must be the first beneficiaries of the products of their labour.

CSO: 3298/046

PAPER BLASTS LABOUR INTRUSION AT MITCHELL NEWS CONFERENCE

Kingstown THE VINCENTIAN in English 21 Sep 84 p 4

[Editorial]

[Text] ..It is high time that the profession of journalism was given the respect to which it has earned a right. We want it protected from intruders.

..To quote the opening paragraph of the Preface to the HANDBOOK FOR CARIBBEAN JOURNALISTS:

.."Journalism is among the most influential of all the professions. It is the vehicle through which people learn about the news of their fellow humans, their communities, their nations and their world. It is the vehicle through which people are helped to understand the complex society in which we live."

..This being the case it must be appreciated that the press conference, which has been accepted and promoted as the leading vehicle for supplying information to the media for transmittal to people, helping them "to understand the complex society in which we live" is very important. Consequently to allow non-journalists to use these conferences for attempting to promote political ends is unthinkable.

..However, this is exactly what John Thompson, Labour Party MP for North Leeward, and an accountant by profession did at a press conference called by Prime Minister James Mitchell on Thursday 13th September. The conference was called to explain to Vincentians, through the members of press and radio, the serious state in which the country finds itself because of the emergence of statistics that demonstrate the existence of a national debt of nearly \$190 million.

..For some reason, that can only be explained by a desire to subvert the proceedings, the Labour Party's organ The Star was represented by Thompson. This man can by no stretch of imagination be described as a journalist. Consequently it is not surprising that he is completely unaware of the principles associated with journalism. In any case he obviously came to the conference not as a journalist but as a politician, bent on converting the serious message to the nation planned by Mitchell into a cheap piece of political opportunism for his defeated party.

..Thompson's very presence at the conference showed the complete absence of "the highest level of integrity" which Harold Hoyte, Editor-in-Chief of The Nation (of Barbados) places high on his list of "Six attributes of a good journalist." In fact Thompson's very presence was a violation of integrity. The occasion was laid on for journalists not politicians.

CSO: 3298/046

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BRIEFS

WITHDRAWAL FROM ECTA--KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent--St. Vincent and the Grenadines is to withdraw from the five-nation Eastern Caribbean Tourist Association (ECTA), Minister of Tourism, Mr. John Horne announced here. Mr. Horne said two other countries, Antigua and Barbuda and Montserrat had already served notice of their intention to withdraw from ECTA. This would leave St. Lucia, St. Kitts-Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to bear the full brunt of the cost of operating the organisation, he said. St. Vincent and the Grenadines was already paying \$44 400 annually for its membership of ECTA, but according to minister Horne, that money could be adequately used to employ two Vincentians to promote the state's tourist industry at the country's mission in New York, and at the Eastern Caribbean High Commission in London. Mr. Horne said at any rate the country's tourist promotion activities were being duplicated by its membership of ECTA and the Caribbean Tourism Association (CTA). He added that tourism officials from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) had already agreed to consider the establishment of a tourism desk at the OECS secretariat in St. Lucia. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 16 Sep 84 p 13]

CSO: 3298/046

PNM CONVENTION IN TOBAGO HEARS CHAMBERS ADDRESS

Highlights of Speech

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 30 Sep 84 pp 1, 21

[Article by Clevon Raphael, political reporter]

[Text] Scarborough: Prime Minister George Chambers launched the People's National Movement (PNM) campaign for the November Tobago House of Assembly (THA) elections with a blistering attack on the Democratic Action Congress (DAC), which won the first Assembly polls in 1980.

Speaking in the capacity of political leader of the PNM, at the party's 25th annual convention in Tobago yesterday, Mr Chambers, without specifically mentioning the DAC, said the people of Tobago had to be retrieved from the hands of those who, for their own purposes, continued their attempts to lead the good people of Tobago astray.

Because of continuous applause from the packed auditorium at the Signal Hill Senior Comprehensive School, Mr Chambers had some difficulty concluding his 64-page address--which was the following verse from the Bible, Psalm 5:

"There is no faithfulness in their mouths. Their inward path is very wickedness. Their truth is an open sepulchre. They flatter with their tongues."

Mr Chambers' address was, in fact, an account of his stewardship since he assumed the office of political leader of the PNM on May 9, 1981, following the death of former Prime Minister, Dr Eric Williams.

In the comprehensive address, Mr Chambers touched on the local, regional and international economics scenarios. Among the highlights of his 95-minute delivery:

--Oil companies operating in the marine areas (Amoco and Trinmar) have committed themselves to an expanded investment programme of about \$1,200 million over the next five years.

Education Plan

--Mr Doddridge Alleyne, leader of the Trinidad and Tobago negotiating team for the purchase of Texaco Trinidad Inc. assets, advised Mr Chambers that the heads of agreements relative to the purchase will be reached within the next 10 days.

--A national consultation on education will be held in the last week of June, 1985, to discuss a new draft education plan (1985 to 1990).

--Trinidad and Tobago is fully participating in the search by the international community for solutions to political and economic problems.

--This country also expects our regional partners to be persuaded, in the spirit of active fellowship of regional integration, to conduct a more pragmatic approach in discussions with us.

--The PNM will soon be opening a Tobago party headquarters.

--Trinidad and Tobago, with the endorsements of the heads of regional governments, has advanced the candidature of Mr Edwin Carrington for the prestigious post of head of the African, Pacific and Caribbean (ACP) group.

--Fifteen billion dollars was utilised under social expenditure from 1973 to 1983 under the Government's long-term development programme.

Dealing specifically with Tobago, Mr Chambers reminded the 1,317 delegates, observers and guests (according to a lunch-time figure by a high-ranking party organiser) that at the 1981 convention, he extended the hand of friendship to "our Tobagonian brothers and sisters in keeping with the unitary state of Trinidad and Tobago."

Stating that he never waived from that stance, the Prime Minister also recalled that this was followed up by meetings with members of the Tobago House of Assembly.

He continued: "The fact of the matter is, and I state it with regret, the offer of the hand of friendship which I made appears to have been grossly misunderstood, to put what transpired in its best light."

Performance

He said that the 25th convention, which continues today, came at a time when there was growing dissatisfaction and disappointment with the performance of those to whom responsibility had been entrusted in 1980.

While PNM lost eight of the 12 seats then, he said, the party must consider these facts.

"In district A, where we lost by 183 votes, 668 persons did not vote; in district B, where the PNM lost by 405 votes, 623 persons refrained from voting.

"In district C we lost by 158 votes, with 642 persons abstaining; in district D, we lost by 196 votes, with 921 electors not voting. In another district the PNM lost by 184; 590 electors did not vote.

"In another district, while the PNM lost by 121 votes, nonvoters totalled 476. In yet another district we lost by 439, with 544 persons not voting.

"Finally, in the last district we lost by 205 votes; nonvoters were 586."

Pettiness

Mr Chambers emphasised: "Tobago is and will always remain PNM versus those who were entrusted in 1980 with a mandate which has not been discharged.

"My charge to you, therefore, is to avoid all pettiness and move forward with a united, Herculean effort to retrieve Tobago from the hands of those who, for their own purposes, continue their attempts to lead the good people of Tobago astray.

"In the final analysis, Tobago has nothing to do with the many weekend or month-old alliances that are being spawned."

On Control of Cabinet

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 30 Sep 84 pp 1, 21

[Article by Clevon Raphael, political reporter]

[Text] Government Ministers are not "careering and careening" about the place without any control from Prime Minister George Chambers.

Mr Chambers made this clear while delivering the main address at yesterday's opening two-day session of the 25th annual convention of the ruling People's National Movement.

In an account of his stewardship over the past three years, Mr Chambers said that perhaps the most important reform in Government that he has initiated is the unbridling of Ministers in the discharge of their constitutional responsibilities for the matters assigned to them under their respective portfolios.

He said he was more than a little puzzled by the ambivalent reception to fundamental changes in the conduct of the business of Government from certain quarters.

He elaborated: "My recollection is, and I am sure it is yours as well, that not long ago, it was fashionable to pose the question: why was it necessary for the Prime Minister to involve himself in every single problem to the exclusion of his Ministers?

"It is as if they miss 'His Masters Voice' and cling to the belief that, notwithstanding delegation of authority, the Prime Minister is expected to pronounced publicly on issues within the portfolio of his Ministers."

The claim now was, he continued, that the Prime Minister must involve himself in, or identify with, every response of Government to issues before it.

"But let me assure you, and through you the nation at large, that this delegation of authority upon which I have embarked and to which I remain firmly committed does not mean and should in no way be interpreted to mean Ministers are careering and careening about the place, as it were, without any control of the Cabinet or, more importantly, the Prime Minister.

"Let there be no doubt that the hand of the Prime Minister is firmly on the rudder. What has to be clearly understood and appreciated is that if it is a Prime Minister's intention to control every single aspect of Government activity, then, under our existing constitution, he needs only two Ministers, himself and an Attorney General. And indeed, if he is a lawyer, he may combine both.

"I am not, and will not be such a Prime Minister."

Chambers at Closing Session

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael, political reporter]

[Text] Scarborough: The 25th annual convention of the People's National Movement (PNM) ended last night with a call by the party's Political Leader, Prime Minister George Chambers, to "rescue" Tobago from a man-made political disaster.

Mr Chambers was delivering the closing address of the two-day affair in which the party was put in preparedness for the November Tobago House of Assembly elections.

To the lusty cheers of 2,247 registered delegates, observers and guests, Mr Chambers said: "Twenty one years ago, Government under my distinguished predecessor moved to rescue Tobago from a national disaster and it falls on me and you 21 years later (to rescue Tobago) from a man-made political disaster." (applause).

Mr Chambers did not announce the names of the party's candidates for the elections. He said this would be done at a rally to be held in the sister island, the like of which was never seen before.

Police and Thief

He also kept many guessing as to the date of the poll. But he did say he might announce the date at the rally. Warmly congratulating the Tobago East and West

constituencies for their arrangements for the two-day convention, Mr Chambers reiterated that there was a font of goodwill for the party in Tobago.

It was reported by a party source that there was a slight hitch in the selection of the PNM candidates. Senator Patrick Arnold was reportedly approached to contest the Scarborough seat but according to the source, he was not pleased and was seeking certain guarantees before giving his consent.

Mr Chambers, in a short address, stressed that among the achievements made in Tobago was perhaps the best library in the unitary State.

In a picing mood, Mr Chambers said: "All those who wish to play police and thief with PNM (applause), must understand they can either play police or thief (applause) but not police and thief."

Francis Withdrawal

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by Clewon Raphael, political reporter]

[Text] Scarborough: The annual convention of the People's National Movement was thrown into high tension yesterday afternoon when Works and Drainage Minister Hugh Francis dramatically withdrew from contesting the post of Vice-chairman.

As Mr Francis marched out of the Signal Hill Senior Comprehensive School to his jeep, delegates, guests and observers were involved in heated discussions over the shock move by the bearded Minister, who conceded the post to Senator Russell Martineau, Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs.

Many were openly asking where was the democracy within the PNM.

Party chairman Francis Prevatt, who was reelected unopposed, announced that Mr Francis was a candidate for Vice Chairman, the other being Senator Martineau. About six minutes later, Mr Prevatt said that Mr Francis submitted a written withdrawal statement.

Against a background of visible shock from the large crowd, Mr Prevatt read Mr Francis's statement which said in part that Mr Francis was withdrawing against a serious accusation against him when it was known he was contesting the post.

Mr Francis said he would not be contesting any other post within the party in the future.

Speaking to the GUARDIAN on his way out, Mr Francis said Mr Prevatt did not read his entire statement. He said he noted in the statement that when he offered to contest the post he was not opposing the political leadership and that his main concern was the party.

He was told that canvassers went around yesterday saying that Mr Francis was attempting to bring NJAC into PNM. If he had won against Senator Martineau, the Political Leader said he would resign.

Later, several Ministers, said Political Leader George Chambers could not have said that.

Mr John Donaldson, Minister of National Security, asked to comment on Mr Francis's surprise move, said: "He did what he had to do."

Mr Francis, besieged by supporters on his way out, was heard to say he could not fight the political leadership.

Before the election, Mr Francis was seen in deep discussions with his constituency executive and several ministers.

The point of democracy was highlighted throughout discussions on Mr Francis' move.

Senator Muriel Green Minister of Information, was reelected (unopposed) as Lady Vice-Chairman; State Enterprises Minister Ronnie Williams was elected (unopposed) as Party Treasurer; Community Development and Local Government Minister Dr Cuthbert Joseph, Party Education Officer; Mr Wilbert Winchester, Labour Relations Officer; Councillor Rennie Matthews, Elections Officer; Mr Winston Best (reelected unopposed) Field Officer; Minister in the Ministry of Housing Mrs Elmina Clarke-Allen, Welfare Officer.

New Public Relations Officer is Port-of-Spain Mayor Stevenson Sarjeant who defeated the incumbent, Mr Horace Grant, Mr Lionel (clear the way) Murray is the Operations Officer.

Robinson Silence

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by Clewon Raphael, political reporter]

[Text] Mr A.N.R. Robinson, chairman of the Democratic Action Congress which controls the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) yesterday morning said he had no comment to make as yet on remarks made by Prime Minister George Chambers at the 25th annual convention of the People's National Movement.

Mr Chambers, dealing with the THA, said that DAC was not carrying out the responsibilities entrusted to it by the electorate in 1980.

Mr Robinson, Chairman of the THA, contacted by the GUARDIAN minutes before he left to attend a meeting in another part of the sister island, said: "I have not read nor heard Mr Chambers' statement as yet. Consequently, I am in no position to make any comment at this time." He promised to do so later.

ONR Statement

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Oct 84 p 3

[Text]

THE ORGANISATION for National Reconstruction has claimed that Prime Minister George Chambers and the People's National Movement are on trial in Tobago. In a prepared statement signed by Public Relations Officer Lennox Raphael, the ONR has described the just-concluded PNM convention held in Tobago as a failure.

According to the statements, Prime Minister George Chambers as Political Leader "did flatter with his tongue; but the time for popular mamaguy is past and he will pay at the poll for his folly."

The release stated that the intoning of Psalm 5 was "directed at his own so-called party faithful."

According to the ONR "The Prime Minister has ventured out of his crease on a sticky wicket to knock and trifle with the people."

"It is the Prime Minister and the PNM who are on trial in Tobago. The people of Trinidad and Tobago have broken the psychological barrier, and there is no turning back to the bottomless pit of PNM forever."

The ONR claimed that coming out of the convention was an indication of the confusion that existed in the leadership of the PNM and it was clear that the PNM had problems, was unable to name candidates and there was no manifesto.

SETTING THE DATE

The Prime Minister was also unable to set the date for the THA elections, the ONR pointed out.

The ONR release stated that they did not understand the Prime Minister's "utterings and mutterings" and the DAC was part of the Accommodation that "severely trounced the PNM" in 1983. A similar defeat was predicted.

The statement added: "The whole thrust of the National Alliance for Reconstruction will be with the DAC, our sister organisation."

"The political action and energy of every member of the ONR will be

with Mr. Robinson and his colleagues to ensure another victory; because the people of Tobago deserve nothing but the best.

"It is no secret that the PNM has been catching its nether to come up with credible candidates.

"This has always been the case, even in Trinidad," said the release, adding that not naming the candidates and describing it as a tactic to confuse the opposition was brass-faced deception.

The ONR questioned: "Why all of a sudden just before the THA elections does the PNM want to open headquarters in Tobago?"

The release reiterated statements made at the last special convention of the ONR by the Political Leader Mr. Karl Hudson Phillips, who stated then: "What we are seeing acting out in Tobago is the wickedness of ole-style politics of larger islands to smaller islands in the Caribbean. "What we are seeing is the carrot-and-stick politics."

In the release, the ONR called for the Prime Minister to set the date for the THA elections.

The ONR claimed that Mr. Chambers had taken the habit of playing games with the election date.

"He tried it with the Local Government elections of 1983 which were deferred from March to August.

"Obviously he was waiting for the right time. But in politics, time is only on your side when you have the moral right and the peoples confidence and when you have betrayed the mandate.

"It is time for the PNM to stop playing police and thief at the same time," the release said.

CSO: 3298/049

JNT CURTAILS WAGE DEMAND BUT CPO STANDS FIRM

JNT Shift, Comment

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 3 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by Gail Alexander]

[Text] Talks between the Joint Negotiating Team (JNT) and the Chief Personnel Officer (CPO) made no further progress yesterday despite the JNT's willingness to drop its wage increase figure.

The negotiations remained in stalemate although the JNT and the CPO met for the entire morning.

At yesterday's meeting members of the JNT, headed by Dr Kenrick Rennie expressed willingness to compromise as long as the CPO agreed to do the same.

The JNT, which is bargaining for six public sector unions, agreed to drop its original wage demand from 15 percent to 12 percent for some public sector workers, and to nine percent for others. This, they said would pertain directly to the upcoming year. However, members of the JNT were unanimous in their decision to hold out for a system of salary indexation.

Job Security

But despite their move, the Chief Personnel Officer remained firm on Government's initial offer of a six percent increase over a three-year period. The CPO also refused to entertain the JNT's amended suggestions as well as its request for indexation. It was reported that the CPO felt it, in the interest of maintaining job security to stick to the original six percent increase.

The meeting adjourned around midday yesterday with no progress made. Both parties promptly went into prolonged talks in preparation for another caucus this morning, beginning at 9 a.m.

Following yesterday's futile meeting, a member of the JNT commented on the situation. He said:

"We are willing to move on the figure of the proposed 15 percent increase as long as the CPO shows signs that he is willing to bend a little on his end.

But naturally we intend to stick to our suggestion for salary indexation. In view of government's unwillingness to control prices, we feel that the only answer to increasing inflation is this system."

The spokesman also added that a previous report (not in the GUARDIAN) stating that the JNT was willing to give up its stand for indexation was incorrect. He reiterated that they would remain firm in that issue, even if they had to readjust the salary increase figures, but needed to see some positive sign from the CPO that he would be willing to move from his six percent stand as well.

However, last month it was reported that the CPO's office was not inflexible on the issue of the suggested six percent, but that the government representative was definitely not signing the two-year agreement which the JNT has requested.

According to JNT members, the work-to-rule protest action against the CPO's six percent continues. Whether or not steps will be taken to increase action will be decided after today's meeting when its outcome is known.

Whatever the decision, it will affect the country's 65,000 public sector workers belonging to the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Services Association, Police Association, Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association, the Prison Services and the Public Services Association.

CPO Refusal To Budge

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Oct 84 p 1

[Article by Gail Alexander]

[Text]

IN AN attempt to expedite wage/salary negotiations, members of the Joint Negotiating Team (JNT) yesterday offered to alter their stand on indexation when they met with the Chief Personnel Officer in a two-hour meeting.

The effort was to no avail, however, since the CPO, Mr. Hilton Cupid, remained adamant in his decision not to discuss the JNT's suggestion of indexation at all.

At yesterday's meeting, the bargaining body offered to move from a system of total indexation (which would link all public servants' salaries to any increase in the local cost of living) to a system of proportional indexation.

According to a spokesman for the JNT, such a system would only link salaries/wages to cost of living increase at intervals, and not totally

every time it rose. The spokesman added that such a type of indexation would allow government leeway in respect of cost-of-living increases.

The JNT, which represents half a dozen public sector unions, also offered on Tuesday to reduce its original wage increase figure from 15 per cent to 12 per cent for some officers and nine per cent for others. They added that their suggestion of a two-year contract was negotiable as well.

But despite reiterating this view yesterday and indicating willingness to accept a system of proportional indexation, they received a negative response from the Chief Personnel Officer. One JNT member was quoted as saying that the CPO refused to hold any talks with the JNT as long as indexation was part of their proposals.

Both parties meet again next Tuesday at 9 a.m.

Labor Congress Concern

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Oct 84 p 3

[Text]

EXECUTIVE members of the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress have expressed concern at the attitude of the Chief Personnel Officer (CPO), Mr. Hilton Cupid in negotiations with the Joint Negotiating Team (JNT) for public sector unions.

This was stated yesterday by Mr. Carl Tull, General Secretary of Congress, after an emergency meeting of the executive committee of Congress. The meeting was called to discuss the critical labour climate in the country with particular emphasis on JNT/CPO talks.

Consideration is being given to the role that Congress will play in the issue.

The executive committee received a comprehensive report on the JNT/CPO talks from Dr Kenrick Rennie head of JNT.

With respect to another issue before Congress, a meeting has been arranged with Minister of Labour Errol Mahabir to discuss the recent dismissal of 35 employees of the Trinidad Hilton.

Decision was taken to request the meeting after the matter was taken to Congress by members of the Communication Workers' Union (CWU). CWU representatives will accompany the Labour Congress delegation to the talks.

The meeting will be held at the Riverside Plaza, Port-of-Spain, today from 1.45 p.m.

CSO: 3298/050

TRADE SURPLUS OF \$133 MILLION FOR FIRST HALF OF 1984

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Oct 84 p 6

[Text]

TURNING around sharply because of Government's financial policies, this country has moved from a trade deficit of \$497 million during the first six months of last year to a position where, for the first six months of 1984, Trinidad and Tobago recorded a trading surplus of \$133 million.

Prime Minister George Chambers revealed this at last Saturday's 25th convention of the People's National Movement (PNM) at the Signall Hill Senior Comprehensive School in Tobago.

He told the estimated 1,300 people in the audience that merchandise imports in the first half of this year were one third lower than the corresponding period in 1983.

RESERVES

The general fall in demand for imported goods, he said, has been strengthened by the Central Bank's insistence on prior approval for foreign exchange meant for consumer items.

He stressed that notwithstanding the improvement in the country's balance of trade, our reserves continue to fall.

It is, therefore, mandatory he said, that current policy measures be maintained in order to further reduce the demand for foreign exchange in the coming months.

And he added, an integral aspect of the adjustment to present economic

realities is containing the rate of inflation.

"In this respect, I am particularly encouraged by the fact that in the 12 months ending July 1984, prices rose by 12.2 per cent compared with an inflation rate of 16.7 per cent in 1983" said the Prime Minister.

The Government intends to make every effort to keep price increases within tolerable limits, he emphasised particularly in those circumstances where increases cannot be justified by independent factors such as higher costs of imports or the removal of subsidies.

- Mr Chambers went on:

In order to assist the consumer to get the best possible value for the money he spends, the Government has decided, as I previously advised, to introduce a National Prices Watch which will be in addition to existing price control machinery.

"The National Prices Watch (NTW) programme will be developed, directed and managed by a Steering Committee of persons drawn from the following disciplines: marketing; communications; business; accounting; labour; women's organisation, standards; in addition to appointees representing more specifically the public interest.

He told delegates: "The composition of the National Prices Watch will shortly be announced for public information. In recognition of the importance which I attach to the work of this organisation I propose to take a personal interest in its operations."

BRIEFS

SHIPPING WITH JAPAN--The Shipping Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (SCOTT) will shortly expand its liner services to include a regular service from Japan, a source from which Trinidad and Tobago has been importing goods at the rate of over \$50 million monthly. John Hunt, Chairman, of SCOTT, the national shipping line, said the service is expected to begin in November, with two sailings a month, accepting break-bulk and container shipments. Hunt, who recently returned to Trinidad following successful negotiations with the Japanese Conference Lines in Tokyo, said the corporation believes this to be a logical and necessary step in the expansion of services offered by SCOTT. "It will provide further opportunities for importers to ship through their own national shipping line, and to pay freight charges here in Trinidad and Tobago, thus keeping valuable foreign exchange in the country," Hunt said. Central Statistical Office (CSO) figures show that Trinidad and Tobago imported \$302.3 million in goods from Japan in the first months of 1983. In 1982, imports from Japan totalled \$637.4 million. Motor vehicles account for the bulk of imports. [Text] [Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 30 Sep 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/050

LUSINCHI'S CABINET REPORTEDLY LACKING COHERENCE

Caracas ZETA in Spanish 12 Sep 84 pp 8-10

[Text] The premature presidential aspirations and the complications preventing President Lusinchi from making the changes which prevailing opinion -- especially that of his party -- deems indispensable in order to revive the economy have created a simultaneous crisis, giving rise to dangerous confrontations within the AD [Democratic Action]. The confused picture which this Political Report will try to clarify is threatened by the unexpected presence of Luis Herrera and his governing team, who, facing a national leadership of the party put together days later, unleashed a fusillade of oppositional criticism and received a direct response from Miraflores. This reaction was viewed by many as presidential intemperance, while others see it as a shrewd diversionist maneuver by President Lusinchi, who, in responding to the former COPEI [Social Christian Party] president, diverted attention from the problems of his government and stirred up the always advantageous comparison between his style and that of the previous regime.

Five Campaigns

In the Democratic Action, it is a *capiti diminutio* -- to use a phrase dear to Betancourt -- to admit that one does not have presidential aspirations. In addition to those who demonstrate the strength and durability to have such aspirations: Octavio Lepage, Carlos Andres Perez and Reinaldo Leandro Mora, there are those who insist on fighting after the bell has rung: Pinerua and Morales Bello, and those who want to jump into the ring on the very eve of the fight: Canache and Bruni Celli. Consequently, the AD seems still to be waging the 1968 campaign: Pinerua, and that of 1983: Morales Bello, along with the 1988 fight: Perez, Lepage, Leandro. But what is even more surprising is that the 1993 fight is already underway: Matos Azocar, Bruni Celli, Cristobal Hernandez, Humberto Celli, Carmelo Lauria, and even that of 1998: Henry Ramos and Hector Alonzo Lopez.

With so many aspirations on the scene, it should not be surprising that they overlap and are superimposed on one another. One candidate from 1968, Pinerua, has joined with one from 1983, Morales Bello, and another from 1988, Lopez. The obvious line of contact is between Pinerua and Carlos Andres, which forces one to revise the profile that Pinerua assumed before public opinion as the leader within the party who opposed the Andres Perez movement, hoisting the

standard of Betancourt orthodoxy and the honesty that Pinerua had always denied Perez. Guiria's son has demonstrated more elasticity than one had suspected and "Pepi" (Perez-Pinerua) is shaping up by the force of circumstances.

All this necessarily displeases Morales Bello, inasmuch as Pinerua becomes his rival in case Carlos Andres should give up his aspirations to be a candidate. It also hurts Canache, in a sense the offspring of the Andres Perez movement. All those mentioned are fishing in the troubled waters of discontent and have found an important competitor in Cristobal Hernandez, whose aspirations are more timely than one might have believed.

Cristobal's Revolt

The chairman of the Economics Commission plays on the failure of the government of Jaime Lusinchí. As a result, he has turned out to be the person who has most openly opened fire on the current government, aiming at objective contradictions, such as those observed between Planning Minister Matos Azocar and what the economic criterion of the government would be. With the profound knowledge of the party that at every convention gives him more votes than gathered by many more prestigious or older leaders, Cristobal calculates that in order to be brought before the Disciplinary Tribunal, then Matos Azocar would also have to be castigated, for his motives for seeking the highest office in the land are not so different from his own, in order to show the recognized inorganic nature of the Cabinet.

It is a ticklish matter for Gonzalo Barrios, who has courageously assumed responsibility for handling the situation, thereby protecting Manuel Penalver, the secretary general seeking reelection and therefore anxious to avoid any involvement in internal disputes. However, this does not mean that Manuelito has ducked the problem, inasmuch as his statements condemning Cristobal's conduct and pointing toward his appearance before the Disciplinary Court as a mirror in which other hasty aspirants should look at themselves were the most precise made in the midst of this minor scandal.

Cabinet That Has Lost Prestige

With this matter resolved, or at least deferred with the transfer to the Disciplinary Court, the matter of the inoperative ministerial team remains. It is an open secret on which everyone is commenting, within the open atmosphere in which everything in the Democratic Action is discussed.

The fundamental problem is the lack of coordination. The president himself has been performing the work of supervision, overseeing and followup that in the Leoni Administration was performed by Reinaldo Leandro Mora as minister of interior and in that of Perez by Carmelo Lauria as minister in the Secretariat of the Presidency, thereby establishing the norm then followed by the Herrera government, according to which the minister in the Secretariat is a coordinator of the Executive Cabinet.

It was therefore necessary to return to the adverse conditions under which Lusinchí put together his current Cabinet and the cautious way the problems

that had to be solved were faced. Many pressures and commitments weighed on him, forcing him to build a precarious frame whose parts are important more for their compensatory power than for their real skill.

With this criterion, Simon Alberto Consalvi, who has never been accused of "Stajanovichist" weaknesses, was doomed to suffer the pressure and tensions characteristic of the Ministry of the Secretariat, a post whose occupant is presumed able to work 18-hour days, sleep in the office, impose his authority on officials who are often full ministers and do all this with the criterion that would be used by the president whom he serves as executive secretary. The latest reports indicate that Consalvi has given up hope of meeting these requirements, an inhibition explaining the hypertrophy of the private secretariat. In the midst of which Blanca Ibanez, with over 15 years of service close to Jaime Lusinchi, has become a more trustworthy vehicle for those working on problems requiring the president's opinion.

It would not be illogical for the Consalvi tragedy to be resolved with the transfer of the protagonist to a post truly in keeping with his specific capabilities, the Ministry of Foreign Relations. There, tension between Minister Isidro Morales Paul and the Democratic Action Party has reached the level of personal insults. The Democratic Action simply considers that Morales Paul is engaged in a perverse game of taking AD members out of the Foreign Service, replacing them with COPEI members, thereby hoping to handle foreign policy without considering the opinions of a party abounding in international experts. A somewhat gloomy example of this game was recently provided when the Venezuelan mission to the United Nations, together with Cuba, presented a motion to make Puerto Rico independent (see the Brasero section).

Consalvi's removal, which the conduct of the party involved would seem to make inevitable., would presume that of two of his proteges, one based on intellectual affinity, Minister of Information and Tourism Armando Duran, and the other as a result of consanguinity, Minister of Youth Milena Sardi. It has been said of Duran that with his appointment, the government lost a magnificent press spokesman without thereby gaining a minister, while Mrs Sardi definitely appears to be disconcerted by the relative complexity of her task. One cannot fail to observe that persons best acquainted with the nuts and bolts of government believe that these two ministries should be eliminated, which is not done because of the political need to place certain persons in important positions or simply to have figureheads.

Even more painful is the situation of Minister of Health Luis Manuel Manzanilla, above all because Manzanilla does not seem to realize it. Health services the pride of all Venezuelans under figures such as Tejera and Gabaldon, have systematically declined under the Caldera Administration and that of J. J. Mayz Lyon. The deterioration has since intensified, with tragic effects on the health of the Venezuelan people. A physician himself, Jaime Lusinchi has specific ideas about what must be done in this field. Manzanilla's selection was based on his personal and professional background, but his management capabilities ("The problem of Venezuela is that of administrative management," Manuel Penalver once said) are not on a par with those he exhibits as a person and as a doctor.

A similar clinical picture can be seen in the Ministry of Environment, where in recent weeks Orlando Castejon has issued some warning, issuing statements providing an idea of the activities of his ministry. With respect to Minister of Urban Development Rafael Martin-Guedez, one would have to infer it from the purely housing-oriented angle from which he views his obligations, a focus he assumed while serving as bank expert.

Certain other ministers exhibit critical angles, as in the case of Luis Raul Matos Azocar, minister of planning. There is no doubt that Matos tries to project a presidential image from the ministry, taking populist stances that depict him as the man who defends the poor in the Cabinet against alleged machinations by Hurtado (Development), Azpurua (Finance) and Gomez Alvarez (Agriculture). Independently of the success this method may enjoy in specific areas of public opinion, it taints Matos Azocar with an unpleasant tinge of opportunism and disloyalty.

Saving the Balance

Except for the political objection to the minister of planning -- about whom it cannot be said that he is inefficient or the opposite either -- the only critical points are the Secretariat and Foreign Relations because of their strategic value and Health, because of the urgency of the Venezuelan health picture. It is understood that Information and Tourism never truly functioned and that Youth is the abortive offspring of a demagogic offer.

The Cabinet saves itself because the government has had the courage to maintain its position vis-a-vis creditor banks, which will, in short-range terms, make it possible to reveal the solution to the problem of the debt (concerning which there is to be concrete news in President Lusinchi's message, announced as we are writing this Political Report). There is also the increase in farm production, which will be proclaimed at the end of the year. Likewise, the administration of cities such as Caracas (Lauria, Government) is being reorganized and there are specific, practicable plans for solving highway problems (Del Moral, Transport and Communications). However, what saves the Cabinet is the work of the president himself, until midnight seven days a week, at a slow but implacable pace. At such a speed, a case of pneumonia is sweated out at one's desk. Can he maintain it beyond the informative phase in which contact with those heading CANTV [National Telephone Company of Venezuela], Ipostel, the debt, the hospitals, the police, and so on, makes sense? High-ranking AD officials say that it does not even seem humanely or administratively advisable.

11,464

CSO: 3348/9

HERRERA CAMPINS RETURNS TO POLITICAL ARENA

Caracas NUMERO in Spanish 16 Sep 84 pp 22-23

[Article by Manuel Felipe Sierra: "Luis Herrera Campins Emerges From the Shadows"]

[Text] The meeting of Luis Herrera Campins' "shadow Cabinet" has had significant repercussions in the government and the COPEI [Social Christian Party]. In keeping with the Herrera style of making politics, the move of the former president achieved the virtue of disconcertedness and surprise.

Why has the government attributed so much importance to a meeting -- within an obviously informal framework -- of former government colleagues and ideological comrades? Why such reactions in the Social Christian Party?

Herrera Campins Style

The emphatic statements by official spokesmen criticizing the meeting and even the rumor that reprisals would be taken against the secretary of SELA [Latin American Economic System], Sebastian Alegreet, and PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.] official Antonio Casas Gonzalez, for attending the Herrera meeting reveal the interest which the government has in the activities of the former chief executive.

It is not merely a matter of the importance which the conduct of a former president has. In the case of Luis Herrera Campins, other considerations come into play. For many analysts, Herrera Campins would be the leader best able to engage in active and radical opposition. Although his domestic strength has substantially declined -- as shown by the result COPEI survey -- he is still judged as the counterpart of the current government, as the most immediate reference -- as occurred with Carlos Andres Perez and the preceding government -- for making comparisons between two administrations.

If the current government is experiencing a downward trend in popularity polls, it is logical to think that that same speed would mark the political recovery of former President Herrera.

Among other reasons, this is so because the government's strategy seems aimed at turning Herrerism into the target of attacks and criticisms directed at the COPEI.

For obvious reasons, the entire weight of the campaign against corruption has to be borne by the main figures in the previous government, who are Herrerists. This is the intersection of the government's interest and that of the Calderist sector of the COPEI, acting on the line of reducing Herrerism to its minimum expression.

This would explain the diligence and firmness with which the government reacted to the Saturday (1 September) meeting and the tacit agreement between arguments used by official spokesmen and certain Calderist leaders.

However, the government's orientation, which is apparently accurate: turning Herrerism into the reason and cause of the country's current administrative maladies, runs the risk of helping the main enemy in the long run. Logically speaking, who is more dangerous to the government's interests and the election calculations of the AD? Herrerism, mistreated and castigated before public opinion and in the party itself, or Calderism, which decisively controls the party and has in its hands the most solid election cards? Rafael Caldera and Eduardo Fernandez?

COPEI

In viewing Herrerism as its main adversary, the government is bestowing upon it a special strength and vigor to act as a valid opposition. The effect is also felt in the COPEI. Who would the "victims" of the AD revenge be? Against which sector will the government unload its heaviest ammunition?

Herrerism does in fact possess an attractive and important banner for facing Calderism. It is not an accident that the most persistent criticism of Herrerism used on the partisan management of Calderism is the lack of bite in the COPEI opposition line. This was the central message of Felipe Montilla's campaign against Eduardo Fernandez and it is in essence the meaning of the Herrera Cabinet meeting.

When Herrera Campins offers an overall judgment of the government policies of Jaime Lusinchi and announces a periodic evaluation of official policies, he objectively assumes the role of counterweight to the government, which for inexplicable reasons the official leadership of the COPEI had not properly embodied.

But beyond the immediate implications -- immersed in the daily struggle of politics -- the meeting of the Herrera Cabinet shows the decision of the former president to plunge into the political struggle.

In giving up the government, Herrera Campins prepared to enjoy a time of reflection and waiting. No one knows better than he that for months, he would have to bear the impact of an overwhelming defeat. Both in the street and within the party itself, Herrerism would have to pay the price of the election humiliation.

Except for the monthly editorials in his periodical, VOZ Y CAMINOS, Herrera Campins has sought refuge in quiet, patient activity in the past seven months.

What now appears to be his comeback is occurring. Will Herrera Campins be able to embody opposition to the government? Will he regain his weight in the COPEI? Can Herrerism experience the cycle of resurrection?

Refrain

Herrera Campins cannot be analyzed solely based on his work in government. The claim that the former president is much more a politician than a statesman appears to be true. Nor can one establish a directly proportional relationship between his organized strength in the COPEI and his political influence in the country.

Herrera Campins immediately enjoys an advantage in fulfilling his role as opposition spokesman. In all that he says and does, he will have a wider audience than the other opposition leaders. Here the mechanism of automatic comparisons once again comes into play. Simply because he is a former president, Herrera Campins can achieve a much more effective targeting of the current president than other political leaders. The average citizen, for better or worse, usually makes simple references: this government compared with that government. Five years ago, who would have bet that the government of Carlos Andres Perez would be referred to in miraculous terms, as expectations of the Herrera Campins administration declined?

Herrera Campins also has in his favor -- for his objectives of emerging as one of the basic opposition leaders -- a language deeply appealing to the people and a mastery of communications media uncommon among Venezuelan politicians. The refrain, with all the rural and folkloric content attributed to it, has served Herrera Campins (he tried it at critical times in his government) to get out of situations and dilute conflicts.

In the opposition, with the trend running in the right direction, in keeping with the plan of keeping an eye on the government and turning its mistakes into dividends, language, his way of communicating with the country would be an appreciable factor in restoring the former president's image.

Herrerism?

It is a mistake to visualize the so-called "Herrerism" as a conventional trend in the COPEI. The strength of the former president has centered much more on his style, his ability to survive the circumstances and take advantage of favorable circumstances than on the existence of a perfectly structured group endowed with a well-defined strategy.

At one time, the entire renovating and progressive thought of the COPEI was assimilated with Herrerism. It was an easy way of finding a definition in the internal struggle. But to do justice to Herrerism as more than an ideological trend, one would have to compare it with a group of friends from the same geographic location, without their necessarily representing any specific doctrinary vision.

Making the strength of Herrera Campins dependent upon the number of sections controlled by his supporters or on how many of his friends are national COPEI leaders might lead to an erroneous analysis.

Without having any organized support, Herrera Campins was able seven years ago to win the presidential nomination by acclamation, against all predictions. Now, with everything that has happened, it is logical to assume that his durability and influence in the party will have to be decisive factors in the years ahead.

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